

# President's Message



Greetings and Happy Summer!

Not only did we have great fun in May at Prescott Center for the Arts (PCA), but we also learned all about the history of the theater itself and the history of

PCA. Before the presentation by Executive Director, Jon Meyer, we had the opportunity to take advantage of private access to the PCA gallery shop which was filled with jewelry, pottery, paintings, and sculpture. At the end of Jon's talk, those in the group with adventurous spirits "let loose" under Jon's direction and participated in short improv sketches. We are, indeed, a multi-talented bunch!!

In June, our Hospitality Committee and our Interest Group Leaders prepared an Annual Summer Membership Social that was a great success. We welcomed 25 guests and potential members, along with 72 of our current members. In the last twelve months we have added many new members, bringing our current membership total to 224. We continue to flourish as a dynamic and growing organization.

If you haven't found your niche in an Interest Group, check out the offerings and contact the Leader for more information. If the group you are interested in is full or you don't see what appeals to you, let us know. And if you don't regularly attend the General Meeting, give it a try; you might be in for a pleasant surprise.

It's hard to believe that my year as President-Elect is over and my tenure as President has begun. My thanks to my mentor and friend, Anne Barton, our out-going President for her leadership and guidance over the past eighteen months. I am looking forward to the exciting and educational year ahead. Your Program Committee has already been hard at work planning the programs for the 2014-2015 calendar.

Be sure to stay in touch and up-to-date during the summer by regularly checking our Website at <u>www.aauwprescott.net</u>.

Have a safe and enjoyable July and August. See you in September! Patti Blackwood, President

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The Thumb Sketch Newsletter Team includes: Stephanie Brown, Janet Orr, Patricia Allen-LaFleur, and Edi Taylor-Richards.

#### Meet Your AAUW Officers For FY 2014-2015

#### **Elected Officers:**

President – Patti Blackwood President Elect – Gail Shay Treasurer -- Jenine Peterson Recording Secretary – Sara Wolters Corresponding Secretary – Julie Cargill Program Co-VPs – Carol Clayton, Annette Gauthier Membership Co-VPs – Deb Dillon, Marlene Walsh

#### Appointed Officers:

Archivist – Julie Pavri Communications Chair – Sara DeRouchey Community Action Co-Chairs – Mardy Taylor, Pat Fox Directory/Address Book Co-Chairs – Dot Williamson, Suzanne Scudder Hospitality Co-Chairs – Donna Gaddy, Randy Clark Newsletter Team – Stephanie Brown, Janet Orr, Patti Allen-LaFleur, Edi Taylor Richards Parliamentarian – Sharon Groves Public Policy Chair – Debra White Scholarship Chair – TBA Webmistresses – Sara DeRouchey/Edi Taylor-Richards/Chris Maxwell/Melinda Anderson YRMC Council of Electors Representative – TBA

## Reminder: Directory updates Due

If you need to *change*, *add or delete* anything in



your Directory listing for the new Directory, please send changes to **Deb Dillon by July 30<sup>th</sup>.** The new Directory will go to press about August 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be

distributed at the September 13 meeting. If you cannot be at the meeting, please arrange to have a friend pick up your copy

## Put These Dates on Your Calendar--Fall/Winter Coming Attractions

September 13-Yavapai County School Superintendent Tim Carter will give his thoughts on the state of education in Yavapai County. Topics will include common core, charter schools, public money for private schools and state trust lands in AZ. Come with your questions!

October 11-Viva la Verde! Running diagonally across central Arizona, the Verde River provides a ribbon of life through the harsh desert to form an important and rare ecosystem. Will citizens accept their role as stewards of this emerging national treasure before it's too late? Filmmaker Hugh Denno explores this question in Viva la Verde! Gary Beverly will be there to answer questions.

November 8- Change of venue to ERAU campus Davis Center. Claudia Greenwood will present clips from the film "Girl Rising," a most beautiful and powerful message of advocacy for girls' education. Discussion to follow.

**December 13-Holiday Brunch at the Historic St Michael's Hotel**. Let's celebrate AAUW and the YC women we have helped through scholarships.

Our plans for January through June are being made and promise to be just as interesting. We do hope you'll make AAUW meetings a priority!

*The Beginnings:* Both the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (founded in 1881) and the Southern Association of College Women (founded in 1903), the associations that merged in 1921 to form AAUW, were created with a concernfor human dignity, a concern that extends throughout AAUW's public policy history.

AAUW supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals in the United States and human rights in their fullest dimension for all peoples of the world. AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports affirmative action.

# Do you enjoy cooking and dining with friends?

"Dining in all Directions" is starting its new season



on Saturday, August 16th, with a kick-off social at the home of Gail Shay. If you are interested in joining this dining group contact Dot Williamson or Wendy Jones. More information will be sent in early August to those who have responded.

Barbara Kyte answered questions at the Summer Social.

# Survey results taken at the Neighborhood Meetings – Part II

Building on the May-June "Thumb Sketch" article (which provided information on "Communication" within our local organization), this month's focus will be feedback on "Interest Groups" and "General Meetings."

## General Meetings:

Members reported overall satisfaction with the format of the General Meetings.

"Announcements" generated quite a bit of discussion. It was noted that although having the President/Convener make all of the announcements moves the process along more efficiently, the observation was that consequently the membership does not become familiar with different Board Members and their areas of participation. It was suggested that several times a year, at different meetings, the Chairs make their own announcements – keeping them short and to the point.

Several suggestions were made regarding new and prospective members at General Meetings. Among

them, that there be a Newcomers table, that we have a Newcomers handbook, that mentors be assigned for new members, and that there be specified greeters for guests.

## Interest Groups

Overall, the neighborhoods were quite favorable toward the Interest Groups, and Interest Groups continue to be a major attraction of the organization. Book groups, bridge groups, and Great Decisions groups remain most popular.

There continue to be requests for evening groups of all kinds.

#### <u>Committees</u>

Public Policy and Community Action are not Interest Groups, they are committees, but each received a lot of attention in the Neighborhood meetings.

Regarding Public Policy, the suggestion was made that as an organization there needs to be more focus at the General Meetings on Public Policy issues locally and statewide. There were numerous requests to hear more *feedback* on Public Policy meeting topics, particularly Legislative Day.

As for Community Action, requests were made to continue to educate the membership regarding the programs that Community Action supports, i.e., Sister-to-Sister, Mentoring, and Girl Scouts. The suggestion for additional programs from Community Action came out of several groups.

In general, the structure of meetings, groups, and committees is well-received by the membership. However, a close look at how we relate to new and prospective members and their successful integration into the organization could bear scrutiny. We don't want to just increase our quantity, we want to increase our quality of membership so that we can continue to grow as one of the "best" AAUW branches around.

## **Printing the AAUW**

## <u>Home Page Calendar</u>

Have you noticed?? Beginning with this issue, the Thumb Sketch has discontinued the calendar pages. Sharon Scanlan, our Thumb Sketch calendar editor for the past eight years, retired from the job last month. We are now moving on to a new approach for displaying and printing your AAUW monthly activities calendar. Members can access and print the calendar from the AAUW website home page, just like you can access and print the Thumb Sketch. You will even have a choice to print it with full details about each event or with just the event titles.

#### Complete illustrated directions that you can print out and use to help you print the calendar are available by clicking on this link.

#### Printing the AAUW Calendar

The directions are in a .pdf file. This is exactly the same type of document as the Thumb Sketch. If you usually print the Thumb Sketch you already know how to print the calendar directions. However, if you need help, please contact Sara DeRouchey or any other member of the web team. They can help guide you through the process.

We know this will be a big change for some members who were comfortable with the old way of doing the calendars. We hope, with these directions and a little practice, you will find the new calendars are just as easy to access and print as the old ones. The new calendars give you more detailed information about each event.

## Interest Groups' Summer Process and Policy

If you are an Interest Group Leader, please contact the members of your group by August 15<sup>th</sup> to see who will be continuing with your group as AAUW begins our new fiscal year.

As a reminder, AAUW Prescott Interest Group Guidelines state:

"Any paid member may call an Interest Group Leader and ask to join an IG. If the group is full, the member will be waitlisted in chronological order with all other persons on the list. No priority or preference is to be given anyone except chronological order. If an IGL is notified by membership that a new member is interested in joining the group, it is the responsibility of the IGL to call the new member with either an invitation to join or, if the group is full, advise the new member of the current waitlist.





<u>**Public Policy Committee**</u> does not meet during July and August. The committee resumes meeting



on Sept. 2, 2014 at 1:00 pm at the Prescott Public Library. Send an email to Debra White (pictured at left) if you would like to be included on the Public Policy Group email list. Follow what is happening with Public Policy on the web site. Summer is a great time

to sign-up to take action with AAUW Two-Minute Activist. http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-

policy/two-minute-activist/

Memorable Moments from the May Meeting at Prescott Center for the Arts (PCA)



Thanking Anne Barton and Passing the President's gavel to Patti Blackwood

Learning Improv:

Julie Cargill and Jon Meyer



Mental Telepathy?

Chris Maxwell and Patti Allen-LaFleur

The Hitchhiker: Annette Gauthier Patti Allen-LaFleur, Jon Meyer, and Sharon Phelps if you missed THIS—ask someone!



## A HUGE Thanks and Farewell to Sharon Scanlan AAUW Prescott President 2007 – 2008

Sharon joined AAUW immediately upon moving to Prescott with her husband Steve in 2003. Instantly, she became very active and has served as Program VP, Fundraising Chair and Corresponding Secretary as well as President. For the past 8 years, she was our invaluable gatherer of all the calendar items for the website and newsletter.

Sharon is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a degree in retailing and had a 33year career with Sears. She spent 20 years in field assignments in the West and 13 years in headquarters in Chicago. She and Steve relocated many times during her career, and he built properties in each of their locales where they lived.

They have been married since 1974 and she has two step-children, and 4 grandsons. Sharon and Steve love to travel and have tried to take a foreign trip almost every year since they moved here. Additionally, she loves to read, make cards, sew,



walk, study genealogy and see movies.

In addition to AAUW, she was an officer on the Yavapai College Foundation Board where she served as Scholarship Chair. She was the Finance Chair for the Methodist Church and served for 10 years on the

University of Wisconsin –School of Human Ecology (SoHE) Board of Visitors, and was president in 2008 and 2009.

She loves AAUW because of her passion for education and also for the variety of interest groups available in Prescott. She and Steve have moved to SaddleBrooke, AZ, near Tucson and, true to form, Sharon immediately joined AAUW Casas Adobes branch. We will greatly miss our cheerful, accomplished and dependable Sharon.

## **Rocky Mountain Regional Conference**

The AAUW Rocky Mountain Regional Conference in Reno was an opportunity to feature and explain the Western Woman. The theme "Western Women – Beyond the Wagon Trail" was best presented by Patricia Hauptman, Senior Project Manager for Project New America. She outlined some of the research her organization had gathered in their study on "Women of the West." We western women have been strong for a long time.

- The first states to give the women the vote were Wyoming (1890), Colorado (1893), Utah (1896) and Idaho (1896.)
- 13 of the 15 states that gave women the vote before the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment were west of the Mississippi.
- Women, whether single, widowed, divorced or deserted could take advantage of the Homestead Act (1862) to claim their 160 acres of the West in their own names.

This theme was carried on by the four local women authors who discussed their love of the open spaces, the silence and solitude provided by the blue skies, brown hills and black mountains of Nevada. They write for children and young adults, primarily, but also wax poetic for the land and the western life they love.

Jane Adrian, incoming AAUW-Arizona President, talked about the state of the state, pointing out some of the issues taken up by the state legislature, likening their activities to something out of <u>Alice in</u> <u>Wonderland</u> with conversations between the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. She noted the reduction of funding for education and the increased funding for prisons, and talked also about the influence of ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) on legislative action: privatization of education prisons and healthcare, stricter voter ID, deregulation and immigration. She also reported on state and branch programs in education, pay equity, reproductive rights and legislative activism.

*Katherine Yelle*, *AAUW State organizer*, led a discussion on the differences between partisan and

political. Partisan is loyal to a party, regardless of the argument. Political is what pertains to the good of the community. This distinction is important, although perhaps hard to distinguish. AAUW is non-partisan, but can involve itself in politics based on the issues that conform to our mission. It is very important that we watch this line carefully so we can protect our non-profit status as under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4).

*Patricia Fae Ho, AAUW President*, carried this idea further when she informed us of a new fundraising policy being issued by the national office on July 1 this year. It is the result of study by many members, with legal consultation, in order to comply with IRS rules regarding the deductibility of donations by members to AAUW. The report will be available on the national website <u>aauw.org</u> and should be reviewed by all AAUW entities that participate in any fundraising. The use of auctions and raffles are controlled by state laws which should also be researched for compliance.

The highlights of the meetings for me were the presentations by Lisa Maatz, AAUW Vice-President, Government Relations - our lobbyist-inchief in Washington, D. C. She loves what she does, and is a very dynamic speaker. She tells her stories in a clear and understandable way. She told of AAUW's efforts to achieve paycheck fairness. The battle was difficult with Congress the way it is. Finally, she and her team realized that an executive order was all that could happen at this time, but the White House was making it difficult. She'd never gotten past staff to speak with the President. Finally, Lilly Ledbetter wrote an op-ed for the Washington Post saying "We must stop resting on our Ledbetter laurels." That drew enough attention so that the executive order was written and signed by the President. Sometimes incremental steps are the only way to reach a goal.

Lisa touched on the gerrymandering of legislative districts and the impact this has had on elections. We get the "bluest of the blue and the reddest of the red." It really is no wonder there is no meeting in the middle.

AAU

In the effort to get the Violence Against Women amendment passed with LBGT, Campus Save and the trials for assaults on Indian reservations to be held on the reservation included, bi-partisan coalitions needed to be put together. Some cried that any civil rights law would clog up the courts. The amendment finally passed. Lisa assured us that "the sky has not fallen and Chicken Little is still alive." These issues are important to AAUW and serious, and Lisa addressed them in everyday language with energy and humor.

*Nevada* members told about their adventures rescuing and starting to sort and archive over 60 boxes of state records.

*New Mexico* shared their STEM programs: Tech Trek, Expanding Your Horizons, and Why So Few.

*Utah* reported on their starting and continuing to hold an art show of Utah Women's art. The program started in 1982 and is still going on in collaboration with the Utah Cultural Celebration Center.

*Idaho* presented their experiences in re-energizing their membership, and *Colorado* shared their challenges and successes in starting an e-branch. We actually saw the branch in action online and learned about the various applications that make it work.

It was great to see members we'd met at other Regional Conferences, and to make new connections. I recommend this adventure to all. It will be in Albuquerque in 2016. Plan now to attend. That will be a much easier drive than this one... Reno is far away!--*Sara Wolters* 







In Memoriam: Lisa Williams.



Lisa Williams was one of our newer members and joined AAUW Prescott just last year. She was born in Queens NY and attended the University of Miami and Georgia State

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University, where she achieved her bachelors and masters degrees and certification as a speech pathologist. She dearly loved her husband Michael and their daughter Allison Beth Williams and son Joseph Daniel Williams.

Because, as her husband Mike says, "Lisa was a bit of a clothes horse," and consistent with her generous spirit, Lisa's family plans to donate her lovely clothes to Arizona Women's Employment and Education (AWEE) and Stepping Stones so that others may benefit.

She is remembered as outgoing, spirited and always smiling. Lisa made each person she touched feel cared for.

Lisa's thoughtful and giving presence will be missed by her family, friends and AAUW Prescott.



Our year in *Community Action* ended with two events: a tea to introduce students to our program and a training session for new mentors. Our team now includes 28! Those still waiting for a student to mentor - don't become discouraged. We are hoping to have an opportunity to make ourselves better known on campus in the fall. Thanks to all who are trained and ready to go!—*Claudia Greenwood* Pictured at: Mentor Training at left are Carol Haack, Patti Allen-LaFleur and Donna Gaddis.

MISSION STATEMENT: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

*The Summer Social* was quite successful with 72 members and about 25 guests attending. Special



thanks to Donna Gaddy for taking the helm, to Sharon Grove for donating the candle door prizes and to Anne Barton,

Patti Blackwood, Lynne Murphy and Carol Clayton for their help at the event. Patti Allen-LaFleur did a super job on the graphics





# Tips on Choosing Books for Book Groups

AAUW book group members

are continuing a 350 year old American tradition when they attend their book club meetings. The first recorded "literature circle" was convened by Anne Hutchinson in 1634 aboard a boat bound for the colonies. The ministers attended Anne's meetings, and she attended theirs. They criticized her teachings, as she did their sermons. The circles continued their meetings after arriving in Boston where the Puritan males worried about what females might be talking about. Their edict to Hutchinson proclaimed that she was "maintaining a meeting and an assembly in your house that hath been condemned by the general assembly as a thing not tolerable or comely in the sight of God nor fitting for your sex." For "troubling the peace of the commonwealth," Hutchinson and her group of Puritan ladies were banned from conducting their literary circle. (The Reading Group Book, 1995)

Thankfully, book groups have come "a long way, baby," and the most difficult challenge we face is choosing books for discussion. To guide us in that task, I have gleaned a few tips from various sources, including the 4 book groups I have belonged to:

#### Consider books that:

- are true to life
- raise many issues
- have unclear endings
- offer new insight, inspire new ideas
- explore topics that are relevant to the members
- challenge reader's values with moral ambiguity
- make you ask "what would I do in that situation?"
- are rich in characterization, circumstances, and ideas
- illustrate values that members may or may not embrace
- that members relate to and encourage personal responses
- encourage members to see the world through a different lens
- require analytical thought by asking the reader open-ended, interpretive questions
- at least one member has read to determine if the book is appropriate for the group
- have complex characters who are forced to make difficult choices in difficult situations

#### Avoid books:

- that spell out everything and leave little to discuss, e.g., some mysteries, Westerns, romances, science fiction/fantasy, and many absolutely entertaining novels
- based on topics that members would not want to discuss for 2 hours, "been there, done that, don't want to read about it"
- that a member "just loves" because negative reactions by members may result in hurt feelings

When suggesting/choosing a book do the math- 12 members x 10 hr. to reading time x 2 hr. discussion time= 144 hours, plus time and money to acquire the book. Is the book worth the investment?

Remind members that even if a suggested book may not be deemed appropriate for a 2-hour discussion it may be a perfect choice for an individual's "need to read" list.

--Kathy Lopez

#### Scholarship Fundraising –Authors' Luncheon-

The AAUW Prescott Scholarship Committee cordially invites you to attend our summer Authors' Luncheon.

Saturday, August 23, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Yavapai College Community Room (in the library building, the usual Saturday meeting location).

Proceeds from the Authors' Luncheon will benefit the AAUW Prescott Centennial Scholarship awarded annually to a female student who has completed at least one semester at Yavapai College and has earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher, preferably with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math) curriculum.

#### LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Not only will you meet and have opportunities for book purchases and signings by three of Arizona's most notable local authors, but the event will feature a delightful luncheon featuring vegetarian tea sandwiches and salads. Additionally, when you purchase raffle tickets, you'll not only be contributing to the Centennial Scholarship, but you'll have chances to win festive gift baskets and/or limited edition Gretchen Lopez paintings and greeting cards. Last but not least, the luncheon event door prize is a gift certificate from Peregrine Book Company in Prescott.

#### **MEET THE AUTHORS!**

Don't miss this chance to meet Susan Lang, Susan Lanning, and Lisa Schnebly Heidinger.

**SUSAN LANNING** writes suspense and mystery novels. A member of AAUW Prescott, she is a retired teacher from Ohio now living in Arizona with her husband. *Granite Justice*, set in a Prescott-like Arizona town, is her most recent novel and her first Belle Evans detective mystery. Her past books, *Harper's Bluff*, *The Danesboro Line*, and *The Day of the Beast* are modern suspense novels. *Imperfect Union* is a historical suspense, taking place in the post-Civil War era.

**SUSAN LANG** now lives in Prescott but grew up on her mother's homestead in a remote Southern California canyon. She is the author of a trilogy published by University of Nevada Press about a woman homesteading in the southwestern wilderness during the years 1929 to 1941. The first novel in the trilogy, *Small Rocks Rising*, won the 2003 Willa Award. *Juniper Blue* (2006) and *Moon Lily* (2008) are the other novels in the series. Presently Faculty Emeritus at Yavapai College, Susan Lang founded and still directs the Southwest Writers Series at Prescott College. She was also founding director of the Hassayampa Institute and is presently the Event Coordinator for Prescott's Peregrine Book Company.

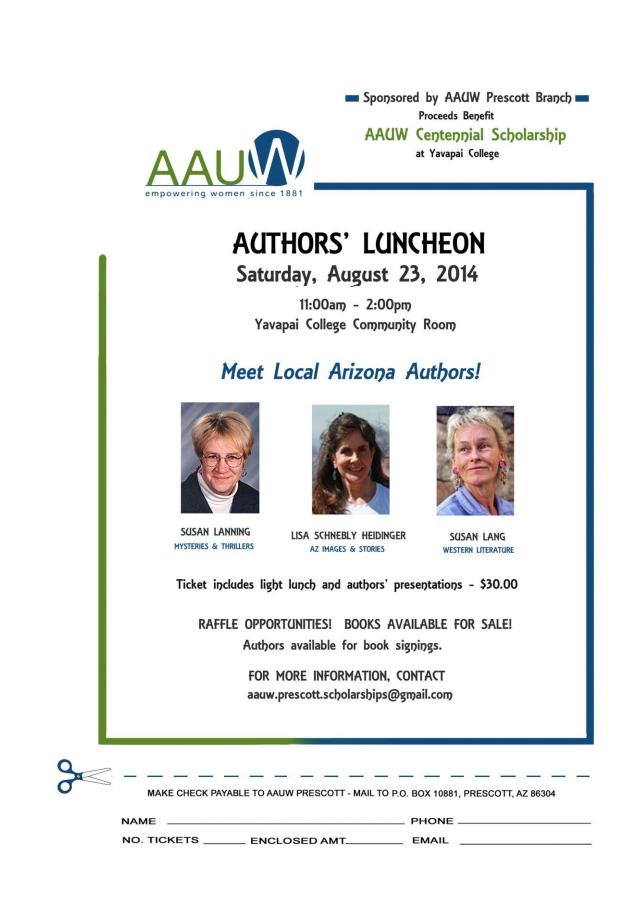
LISA SCHNEBLY HEIDINGER was a well-loved guest presenter at an AAUW Prescott general meeting in the spring of 2012. We are delighted to have her return as one of our authors at the luncheon. Lisa Schnebly Heidinger knows Arizona – in fact, Sedona was named after this talented writer/reporter's great-great grandmother. In addition to her sold-out volume *Arizona: 100 Years Grand 1912-2012*, she is also the author of *Sedona (AZ)*, an *Images of America* publication. Her four additional books focus on Arizona culture and history. *The Three Sedonas* (Apr 2000) is a children's picture book especially appealing to 4-9 year-olds about the life and times of Sedona Schnebly, for whom the famed town in red rock country was named; *Chief Yellowhorse Lives on: And Other Stories of Arizona Places and People* (Aug 2003) is a compendium of short stories; and *Tucson: The Old Pueblo* (Oct 1995) is a delightful description of historic and cultural Tucson with beautiful pictures and descriptive text. Lisa Schnebly Heidinger also collaborated with Fred Duval in *Calling Arizona Home* (*August 2005*). Fred and Lisa's collaboration took them to more than twenty-five towns around the state, talking to people about their communities. Included in *Calling Arizona Home* are tales of a woman who did not come to know her husband's real name until they applied for a marriage license, a man spending forty-five years growing with his Navajo community, a man who says that compared to Hawaii, Holbrook is paradise, and a woman whose life has come full circle in Oak Creek Canyon.

# GET YOUR TICKET! Support our Scholarship programs—Increase our ability to give scholarships.

Here are the current Balances:

- Mary Alice Moulton Childcare Assistance Fund Balance as of April 30, 2014 <u>\$46,562.33</u>
- AAUW Centennial Scholarship Fund Balance as of April 30, 2014 <u>\$12,34053</u>

To make your reservation for the luncheon, please consult the flyer on the next page of this Thumb Sketch edition. See you there!



Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

-William Butler Yeats, writer, Nobel laureate (1865-1939)

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