



The BayStater

Fall 2006
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Pat's Points

Patricia Bologna, AAUW-MA President

A Letter to the Membership



Pat Bologna

The following Oprah Winfrey quote was prominently displayed at the recent Conference of State Leaders (CSL) in Washington, D.C.:

"We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are."

Affirming change, preparing for change and engaging in change were the subjects of ongoing CSL conversations. AAUW Association President Ruth Sweetser spoke frankly and passionately about moving AAUW forward. Ruth's essential questions centered on the following: what has greater value, the organization or the mission? What is the right way for the future? Her excitement and energy about the future for AAUW was very empowering.

Playing out the Winfrey quote, neither can we "become what we need to be by remaining 'who' we are or 'where' we are." As evidenced by the discussion at the Massachusetts Summer Board Training meeting, "Vision to Performance," we may all belong to different organizations but with the same name-AAUW. Our core values and mission remain deeply rooted in "equity is still an issue," but the path to its correction follows many avenues.

The Associated Press reported recently on a Catalyst Company survey that indicated that it would take forty (40) years before women would catch up with men in becoming corporate officers. Additionally, Bloomberg Financials reports that women scientists lag behind men in applying for patents, because they are "hindered by a lack of contact with industry decision makers." The work for AAUW members in facing these and other challenges and helping to make societal corrections remains at the core of our mission. The 'what', 'who' and 'where' may be different for each member, but the desired outcome is still the same.

Listed below are a few of the discussion points from the Massachusetts Summer Board meeting. Subsequent state meetings will continue this discussion, with the

ultimate goal of a three to five year Action Plan for AAUW-Massachusetts. What are your thoughts? Please share in this dialogue. All members are always welcome at all state meetings. Your input is crucial and encouraged.

Politics: become more active in the support of women Candidates;

Research: develop program ideas that further the findings of AAUW research;

Advocacy: form clusters of skilled members willing to Advocate;

History: familiarize each member with the history of AAUW

Branches: reinstate topics chairs, increase communication between branches;

Support: women owned businesses.

Remember to look to the Massachusetts website (<http://www.aauw-ma.org>) for information about upcoming activities, meetings and events. Do attend, be involved and engaged, and support the process. Change is not a random action, it is inevitable. Moving forward is necessary and AAUW-MA is "on the move."

Meeting the Change Challenge

At some level, all of us would like to avoid change, but sometimes we simply cannot. In this 21st century, information and communication are critical to accuracy and success.

Association is constantly exploring ways to improve communication. For example, the Development Department seeks to verify monetary contributions by states, branches and individuals. Communiqués are sent to state leaders, who in turn verify the information with the state financial officer. This paper process can be time consuming. Electronic transfer might be a better solution.

AAUW-MA is focused on this same discussion; we are also seeking ways to better the transfer of critical information to our members. While supporting the mission of AAUW is always paramount, the means of communicating may need to go beyond the paper process. This change challenge may involve greater use of electronic communication. For example, in the near future, the *BayStater* may be published in electronic format only. Your branch officers will be involved in discussions about this potential change; please let them know your thoughts. And, in order to ensure your opportunity for ongoing and enhanced information, please be certain to list your email address with your branch leadership team.

Staying informed is critical, that will never change.



Marcelline Barron, AAUW's New England Regional Director, has spent this summer recuperating from a serious illness. We were delighted to learn recently that she's now at home regaining her strength. As you know, Marcelline has been a devoted, committed and dedicated representative of our region to the AAUW Administrative Board. Should you wish to send her a get-well message, please direct your note to:

Mrs. Marcelline Barron, PO Box 320307,
Fairfield, CT 06825-0307.

We all look forward to her return to good health.

AAUW - MASSACHUSETTS 2006-2007 GOALS

Promote and Increase Membership

- Increase branch membership by 5%
- Provide a welcoming environment
- Create a database of successful branch programs
- Increase visibility through publicity
- Increase participation in public policy activities, community programs

Promote Leadership Development

- Develop a plan to identify and mentor future leaders
- Encourage branches to recognize local women of achievement
- Encourage C/U student participation in Association Leadership Programs
- Enhance and strengthen College/ University Partnerships

Reflect Collaboration and Diversity

- Collaborate with diverse organizations
- Develop programs that reflect diversity

Increase Visibility

- Facilitate cooperation with organizations holding similar visions
- Present educational program/project on political issues
- Revitalize Action Corps
- Establish a marketing committee

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AAUW promotes education and equity for women and girls,
lifelong learning and positive societal change.



MVP Spotlight

I begin this Spotlight column with a woman who is certainly most deserving of the title **Most Valuable Person**. The Hon. Shirley Lewis was President of the Taunton Area Branch of AAUW from 1957 – 1959. Yet, AAUW is only one small – albeit very important - chapter in Shirley Lewis' life. According to an article in the June 27, 2006 issue of the Taunton Daily Gazette, titled *Our View*:

"Mrs. Lewis was a lawyer and a member of the Taunton School Committee for 14 years, from 1952-66, serving as chairwoman for 4 years... Mrs. Lewis supported the school but was forceful in pushing her own agenda for the children of Taunton. She was a Taunton Probate Court judge until illness slowed her down and she and her husband moved to Florida."

I am proud to tell you that the Lewis' legacy continues to this day. Their son, Dr. Randall Lewis, a Yale graduate, helped arrange a donation of \$100,000 to assist the Boys and Girls Club of Taunton in building a summer camp. That and several other generous donations of time, labor and talent from community members helped this city open a magnificent facility on Harvey Street sporting a swimming pool, basketball courts, a softball field, little league baseball field and even canoe lessons along the Three Mile River which runs deeper into the woods behind the park. The only request Mr. Lewis made in return for the generous donation was to name something in the park after his mother and his father, the highly respected Attorney Benjamin Lewis. The officers granted that wish by naming **the entire park** after this amazing couple. The Boys and Girls Club Lewis Park opened its first season this summer in Taunton.

I personally had the pleasure of taking two children to the camp this July for three glorious weeks of fun and exercise. They were children who are being raised in the Fairfax Gardens inner-city housing project and the look on their faces when we turned into the park among the trees in North Taunton was worth a million dollars! As reiterated by the branch members I spoke to while writing this article, Her Honor Shirley Lewis has also earned Honorary Life Membership status for over 50 years of membership in AAUW. Thank you, Shirley...for being one of AAUW's **Most Valuable Persons**.

Barbara Burgo
AAUW-MA MVP

IFUW Update

For a complete history, and up-to-date communication between AAUW President Ruth Sweetser and IFUW President Griselda Kenyon, kindly consult your AAUW Member Center at http://www.aauw.org/member_center/IFUW/index.cfm/

Membership Matters *Barbara Burgo, AAUW-MA MVP*

I wanted to begin my first BayStater newsletter article as Massachusetts Membership Vice-President for 2006-2007 by thanking AAUW for entrusting me with such a valuable position. Then, I realized the importance and dual honor of being **MVP** this year...so, to keep things in perspective I would like to more appropriately begin by saying **CONGRATULATIONS AAUW!**... for a remarkable **125 Years** of "promoting equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change." Further, I wish past, current and future members the proud legacy of yet another **125 Years** of success... **because equity is still an issue!**

Now, please allow me to express my heartfelt **Thanks!** for the overwhelming vote of confidence you have shown by allowing me to serve as this year's **MVP!** I must admit, I always get a bit of a "chuckle" out of that acronym – but to me it stands for what every AAUW member is, a **Most Valuable Person**. Thus, I would like to share with you how I have chosen to translate that acronym this year into a new article in the BayStater. I call it "**MVP Spotlight**" and it will serve to literally "spotlight" a major accomplishment or honor bestowed on one of our Massachusetts AAUW members. This will allow me to share the *fun* title with every other member of AAUW-MA, and deservedly so. Thus, please look ahead in this issue for the first "**MVP Spotlight**" article and please share other ideas with me for inclusion in future issues.

On another note, I am fully aware that as society continues to change and people are more time-challenged, membership in many organizations is beginning to suffer. We must be pro-active and continuously strive to increase membership in AAUW if we are going to continue our proud legacy for another 125 years! Organizations everywhere are adopting creative methods of increasing sluggish membership...as truly successful Associations do. With that, I am excited not only to be an AAUW member at this crucial time in our history, but to be a key player in reminding all of us what **MVP's** we truly are! It is not natural for most of us to "toot our own horn" but we **must** in order to call attention to who we are, what we represent and encourage full participation of new members, as well as the retention of our long-standing ones. We have the capacity to change or enhance the lives of women and girls. I know this because I am a product of that very premise. My participation in AAUW stems from the first Taunton Area Branch essay contest scholarship that I won -which helped me travel abroad in 1997 with URI/ RIC's Summer Seminar in Cape Verde program (as an **Slightly Older Student** ..a RIC acronym that translates to S.O.S.?) through my slo-o-w but steady progression to graduation in the Spring of 2005. I try to exemplify all that is good about AAUW when I encourage members to join because this organization "mentored" me through some of the toughest chapters in my life. AAUW helped me gain the confidence in myself to overcome many challenges and grow to the woman I am today. I am convinced that we owe that legacy, honor and "gift" of membership to all we meet. As the successful role models (**MVP's**) that you truly are, please help me help AAUW to grow by just "spreading the word"... the message and success speaks for itself!

So, with **MVP** as our "theme" this banner year, I would like to introduce you to the program we are proudly sponsoring called the **Member-Get-A-Member Campaign**.

Keys To The Future:

A Member-Get-A-Member Campaign!

I see my role as State MVP this year as two-fold: First, to **REMIND** every one of you that you are the true **MVP's** (**Most Valuable Persons**) of AAUW...because most of you are too modest to adopt that title for yourselves – though it is truly a fitting one!

Second, to **ENCOURAGE** each of you to share our collective AAUW experiences with just one or two of the folks you will meet this year... and member-by-member watch this Association continue to grow spontaneously. The campaign's message is quite clear to me... it is not only time, it is imperative, that we "pass the torch" on to those who have not yet been enlightened! However, as your MVP, I prefer to say "pass the *touch*"...if each member *virtually* "touched" another person in their lives with the vision that *is* AAUW, this year's

Member-Get-A-Member campaign would be a huge success. Is there one person that you "mentored" to join? If so, what kept them? I'll bet it was the "gift" of awareness, camaraderie, continuous learning and activism that you introduced them to that keeps them coming back! Don't you owe that "gift" to another friend or family member?... and when they join the rewards to all of us are many!

- ♦ The **Key** to this campaign's success is to encourage every AAUW member to make a *personal commitment* to recruit at least one new member.
- ♦ The **Benefit** to this organization will be the growth necessary to continue being a successful organization...for the next 125 years!
- ♦ The **Reward** to members who are successful in bring in new members are countless... but here are a few highlights of the rewards available to individual campaign winners:

- Members who are successful recruiters will receive recognition from the Association.
- Members, branches and states will be eligible for awards at the end of each challenge period.
- Every member who recruits one or more new members will be eligible for the Grand Prize drawing at the 2009 convention.
- You and every member who recruits a member will be recognized on the web site's Hall of Fame.
- Everyone who gets a new member to join can be eligible to win an expense-paid trip to the 2009 Association convention.

Meanwhile, please visit our web site at: www.AAUW.org for all the details. Also, there will be **Tips, Tactics** and **Tools** to assist and inspire you every month... such as:

- August is "back to school" month...seek to post/place AAUW info/brochures on bulletin boards, in message centers and on school web sites - with the assistance C/U representatives wherever possible.
- Send an e-postcard to someone you know to encourage them to join your branch.
- Urge every new member to attend the meetings by making them feel welcome and valued.

Remember...AAUW's message "sells itself." So look around you...I'll bet there is someone who needs to know how truly vital this organization is to their continued growth...they probably won't realize it until you tell them about us! Tell one person...and they'll tell one more...like our *phone tree*, let's begin the **Member-Get-A-Member tree**. With all *branches* supporting each other we'll continue to grow like the strong Oak of an organization that I'm sure our founders envisioned us to be! From roots to branches to trees, each and every AAUW Branch is valuable to me...Thank you for all you do to make this world a better place!

"Literacy is the most basic currency of the knowledge economy we live in today."
B. Obama

Staying well informed about issues and current legislation has always been the hallmark of an AAUW woman. Knowledge of and/or participation in the process of public policy illuminates our own knowledge economy, and furthers the mission of life-long education, and equity for all women and girls.

The following websites are of special interest to members as they clarify an understanding of the public policy process as it affects AAUW's mission; they can be accessed through the aauw.org website:

Action Alert: bimonthly review of Congressional or Executive Branch action on AAUW priority issues.

Action Network: join those interested in influencing the outcome of policy issues.

Two-Minute Activist: one minute to read, one minute to act-on legislative issues.

Position papers (www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy): current information on public policy issues and effective avenues for action.

AAUW Congressional Voting Record: Senators/Representatives voting records on issues relevant to AAUW.

Washington Update: weekly e-mail bulletin on public policy matters.

Be assured of staying current, be connected to the process.



Public Policy

Arline Broberg, Chair

URGE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT TITLE X: Since enactment of Title IX or the Education Amendments of 1972, opportunities for women and girls in sports have increased dramatically. However, in March 2005, the Department of Education took an action that could undermine Title IX's success by issuing an "Additional Clarification of Intercollegiate Athletics Policy: Three-Part Test - Part Three," which makes it easier for schools to prove they are meeting the athletic interests and abilities of women on campus by using a less rigorous e-mail survey method. AAUW has been working with lawmakers throughout the year to identify strategies to rescind or nullify the unnecessary clarification and protect the gains already made under Title IX.

SUPPORT THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT: Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) have reintroduced the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA/HR 5151/S2593). Both the House and Senate versions of FOCA have been referred to the Judiciary Committees. FOCA declares that every woman has the fundamental right without government intrusion to choose to bear a child, terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability, or terminate it when necessary to protect her life or health. With reproductive rights being systematically dismantled by the federal courts and several state legislatures, it is time to protect those rights with national legislation. FOCA would be retroactive: any federal, state, or local law that conflicts with FOCA would be rendered null and void.

SUPPORT HATE CRIMES PROTECTIONS: The Senate is currently considering attaching the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA) as an amendment to the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. The House passed

Continued in next column. See Public Policy

AAUW-MA Public Affairs

Patricia Ho, Public Affairs Liaison

Partnerships for Success

As a national organization with a 125-year history of promoting equity for women and girls, AAUW is unrivaled in its credibility. Yet why do we seek partnerships in collaborative relationships and coalitions? Can we soldier on alone?

By partnering with organizations with similar goals, we can

- * Share resources and areas of expertise
- * Be more effective in achieving our collective goals through a larger public voice
- * Create diverse links within the community
- * Advance AAUW's work, name, credibility because of broadened outreach.

In reviewing the partnerships that we currently share, we see that our influence is enhanced in achieving goals related to wage equity, access to equitable opportunity for women, mentoring girls into math, science, technology fields.

As AAUW-MA Public Affairs Liaison, my goals are to

- * Strengthen our network of state and regional partners through co-sponsorship and active participation in events
- * Create new connections as we strive toward greater economic security for women.

These interactions are exciting and informative, and I invite anyone to participate with me in working with our diverse partners.

(Patricia can be reached at PatriciaHoAAUWMA@aol.com)

Partners include MA Commission on the Status of Women, MassGAP, MA CEDAW, Coalition for Choice, Prevention First Campaign, Girls' Coalition of Greater Boston, ASPIRE, Girls Inc. of Lynn, Lowell Women's Week, Women at Work Museum, Young Women in Technology Mentoring Project, Governor's Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence. See pages 10-11 of the **2006 AAUW-MA Directory** for more details.

Public Policy continued

similar legislation as an amendment to the Children's Safety Act in September 2005. AAUW supports this amendment as a way to ensure passage of a vitally important piece of civil rights legislation.

PROTECT EDUCATION FUNDING: On February 1, President George W. Bush released his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2007, which included a \$2.1 billion cut to education funding over the next five years. Programs targeted for elimination include Perkins Vocational Education, Women's Educational Equity Act, student aid programs (Perkins loan program), gifted and talented programs, arts education, physical education, and programs that prepare students to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Even No Child Left Behind would be funded \$15.4 billion below the level authorized by Congress. These cuts come on the heels of the largest cuts to federal student financial aid in our nation's history which were recently signed into law by the president in the budget reconciliation bill. AAUW believes these are the wrong priorities.

TAKE ACTION! Visit the Two-Minute Activist now at www.aauw.org to contact your members of Congress about the above-mentioned issues.

Prevention First Campaign

Anahea Waitekus, AAUW-MA Liaison

The Prevention First Coalition, a coalition of organizations concerned with the health of young people, women and families, is working to promote a comprehensive approach to reducing the rate of unintended pregnancies and reversing the increase in sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS in our state.

Priorities of the coalition include:

Increased state funding of teen pregnancy prevention programs to \$4m. Prevention programs have contributed to a 36% drop in the teen birth rate over the past 10 years, yet some communities in Massachusetts still struggle with teen birth rates over 200% above the state rate. Communities with high teen birth rates need funding levels that match the size of their need for prevention services.

Increased state funding of comprehensive family planning services. Current funding should be moved from line item 4513-1000 to a new "Comprehensive Family Planning Services" line item and increased by \$1.9m bringing funding level to \$6,637,002. This will ensure better access to critical services, provide HIV counseling/testing services to at risk clients and implement the Emergency Contraception statute, a state-wide hotline and consumer education with \$150,000. These programs provide comprehensive family planning services, counseling and education to low-income uninsured women, men and adolescents. Dramatic cuts occurred several years ago which the legislature has restored over the last two years. Still thousands of eligible women, men and teens do not have access to these services due to inadequate funding. This puts their lives and health at risk.

Restricting the use of state and federal abstinence-only funding. Include the following language in the DPH admin account 4510-0100 that restricts the use of state and federal abstinence-only funding: *"Provided further that any state or federal funding shall not be used for classroom based abstinence-only programming."* Research has demonstrated that abstinence only classroom curricula often communicate medically inaccurate, harmful and misleading information to teenagers. Abstinence-only classroom programs promote ambivalence about the effectiveness of condoms to prevent pregnancy and STD's, and teenagers who participate are less likely to use condoms or other contraceptives when they do become sexually active. Massachusetts has historically used federal abstinence-only funds for an effective education media campaign, but now the funds are being used in Massachusetts solely for classroom programming.

Community based health and sexuality education services promoting healthy behaviors. This bill would require the Department of Public Health to establish a program of community based health and sexuality education provided by comprehensive family planning agencies. Adolescents, parents, guardians and staff of community based agencies would be the target populations to benefit from science based health information, education and outreach. This program was funded at \$1 m for several years but was the victim of state budget cuts.

Comprehensive health and sexuality education in all public schools. The Health Education Bill (S.102 / H.1641) would make health education - including comprehensive sex education - part of the state's core curriculum. Comprehensive programs teach the benefits of abstinence as well as provide information on contraception and disease prevention for teens. This bill requires school districts to teach medically accurate, age-appropriate health education in grades K-12.

Branch Diversity Project

Nancy Moore, Diversity Resources

A LITTLE DOABLE DIVERSITY PROJECT

Let's take a look at something that sometimes gets overlooked in our branch program and initiatives planning. Diversity. Issues come and go. Focus changes. But certain issues keep re-emerging from what might be seen by some as having had their demise - from being "overworked," or of lesser importance as time goes on. Perhaps it's a lack of imagination or vision on the part of too many, a "well we've done as much as we can do" attitude, or, heaven help us, a kind of defeat on the part of those among the "overworked." That happens often with diversity!

Looking further, let us consider a few things that can help keep the flame. For a simple start, how about choosing one book from the Adelante Book Club and forming a group, even of two or three, to read and discuss over tea and cookies?

This requires commitment on the part on one member who is willing to see it through. It can be a spontaneous little project that can be started at this moment and done in addition to the annual program year. Search the Diversity section of www.aauw.org for a list of Adelante book selections. (You can even order the books on line through the site.) There are a number of topics addressed in the readings. Choose one that best suits your branch profile, and do it.

Could be, for even one reading, or a short series, your local library can be asked to support the effort by providing space to accommodate members of the local community, get an announcement in the local news, and be listed as one of the library programs.

Contact me for a conversation about diversity ideas for your branch at 781-275-1018. Email: garvinancy@verizon.net

Cheers and good luck!

On Diversity...

I hope all of you have seen *and heard* the video-taped, insensitive remarks made by Sen. George Allen last month directed at the Indian-American college student. As the saying goes, *a picture is worth a thousand words*. I sometimes feel that we need a thousand times a thousand words to explain the increasing need for acceptance and tolerance of diverse populations in our world today. Yet, sadly the explosion of the on-line debate which surfaced on August 16 and 17, 2006 regarding the news headline I saw on AOL titled: *Senator Apologizes for Calling Man Macaca*, with video titled: *Let's Give a Welcome to Macaca*, says more than any of my words could say. As *Teach Tolerance* slogans and resources are circulated more frequently now than ever before, I would like to add my own sentiment which I feel is equally or even more important... **Practice Tolerance!** ...need I say more?

Barbara Burgo



AAUW's **Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout** campaign information can be accessed through the Public Policy page of the state website, <http://www.aauw-ma.org/>.

AAUW-MA 2006 Awesome Activities

2006 Spring Conference— A Mission Driven Event



Lisa Maatz

Our convention was entirely AAUW mission-driven combining two themes: education as the gateway to economic security and the impact on women students of sexual assault and sexual harassment at institutions of higher education. We were fortunate to have Lisa Maatz as our keynote speaker to lay the ground work for and integrate our two themes. She clearly articulated the fact that a woman's ability to gain a college education which can lead to her ability to be

financially secure is highly impacted by sexual assault and sexual harassment on the campus.

We were able to present both a plenary session and a workshop on the study done by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women entitled, *Real Cuts, Real People, Real Pain*. It shows how governmental cuts in spending have disproportionately effected women. The study highlights the fact that educated women are more financially secure and points out that cuts in educational support to students disproportionately affects women.

We also featured a plenary session on the Educational Foundation report *Drawing the Line* as well as the federal research *Campus Sexual Assault: How America's Institutions of Higher Education Respond*. We are fortunate that the Principle Investigator for the government sexual assault research is here in Massachusetts so she was able to present her research and answer questions.

We linked our themes internationally by having an EF Fellow from China and a local branch member from Lebanon describe the plights of women/education/financial independence in their countries of origin.

In mid-day, Lisa Maatz lead a discussion about sustainability which was energetic and thoughtful in its approach to the frustration many of us feel as we are working so hard to invigorate our organization.

Two women from a financial consulting firm described how women should financially prepare for retirement and fiscal decisions they might want to consider once they are in retirement.

Finally, we rounded out the day with a panel presentation that included an LAF Litigant, Aresou Mansourian, from California

(suing UC Davis for sexual discrimination when they banned her and other women from the varsity wrestling team) and her attorney. That panel included state experts in Title IX as well as a representative from our Massachusetts Progress in Equity award winning college.



Center: LAF Litigant
Aresou Mansourian

That final presentation was the perfect introduction for the LAF dinner that evening which featured the litigant and her attorney.

Marilee Kenney Hunt
AAUW-MA Program VP

Honoring Family Friendly Workplaces

At a ceremony held on March 4, 2006, at North Shore Community College, Danvers, the Danvers-Topsfield, Newburyport, and North Shore branches recognized five local employers who contribute to healthier families and communities by creating family-friendly work environments.

According to *Women at Work*, an Educational Foundation report, important benefits include family health insurance, flexible work arrangements, quality family care options, alternative sick leave options, and job training and education opportunities.

The following companies received awards:

- **Beverly Cooperative Bank, Beverly**
- **Brooksby Village, Peabody**
- **CAB Health & Recovery Services, North Shore**
- **Caritas Holy Family Hospital and Medical Center, Methuen**
- **Costco Wholesale, Inc. Danvers**

Carole Rein, Co-chair of the partnership project presented the awards. Patricia Ho, AAUW-Massachusetts President, was the guest speaker. Family members of the award recipients and members from each of the participating branches were present adding to the celebratory experience.

Other committee members from the three branches include, Co-Chair Anthea Waitekus, Linda Britt, Judy Donovan, Liz Fragola, Pat Gorton, Scottie Robinson, Nelly Wadsworth and Mary Ann Walsh.

Carole Rein, North Shore Branch



Workplace representatives at the Honoring Family Friendly Workplaces Ceremony proudly displaying their award plaques

We note with sadness the passing of Retired Major General Kathryn Frost. Kathy had been appointed AAUW Executive Director in 2005, but had to step down for reasons of health.

Worcester Branch Hosts Sister-to-Sister Summit

On Saturday, April 22, 2006 the Worcester AAUW Branch membership joined forces with Maria Rosado of Girls Inc Worcester, Judi Kirk of the Worcester YWCA, and Youthnet to hold a **Sister to Sister Summit** at the Worcester campus of Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Public Health Sciences. A grant from the Women's Initiative covered Sister to Sister t-shirts, canvas bags with goodies, raffle items, snack table, lunch and handout materials. We limited our summit to girls only between the ages of 12-16 because we wanted the girls to feel free to talk about their thoughts and ideas. Forty-five girls had a chance to speak up as they rotated through each room. Topics for the three breakout sessions included: Relationships (good, bad, & ugly); School (homework, teachers, & safety); and Health (taking care of myself). Peer facilitators from area high schools guided and encouraged the open dialogue amongst the girls. Notes were taken at each of the sessions for a wrap up discussion and evaluation at the end of the summit. During lunch, the girls listened to a panel of former Girls Club members which included Linda Cavaioi, YWCA executive director; Agnes Rivera, Great Brook Valley Health Center, Training and Community Relations Specialist; Polly Tatum, attorney; and Betty Orsi, AAUW Worcester Branch president. Before retreating upstairs for the tour of the pharmacy campus, girls were also treated to a special get up and go dance instruction session. Special thanks to our national AAUW and state AAUW staff and website for all the help and information which they provided us on planning a summit.

Betty Orsi, Worcester Branch

My Turn to Learn College Fair a Big Success

On Saturday, March 4, 2006 four AAUW branches proudly presented the My Turn To Learn, A College Fair for the Non-Traditional Student, at the Westgate Mall in Brockton from 1 – 5 pm. The Hingham, Taunton, Worcester and Foxboro Area branches brought colleges and lenders to the Mall so that anyone who has thought about pursuing a college degree can get information to make that dream a reality.

The MTTL Planning Committee worked very hard over the past several months to recruit the colleges, financial aid institutions and sponsors, to publicize the event, and to coordinate all the activities for the day to bring these valuable resources to potential students. Thirteen colleges registered for the event: Bay State College, Bridgewater State College, Bristol Community College, Eastern Nazarene College, Massasoit Community College, Newbury College, Nichols College, Northeastern University, Quincy College, Roxbury Community College, Simmons College, UMASS Boston and Wentworth Institute of Technology. These colleges are from Southeastern and Central Massachusetts, and the greater Boston area.

The event was co-sponsored by Bank of America and Nellie Mae. Bank of America is a one of New England's largest lending institutions that offers federal and private educational loans. Nellie Mae provides access to and information on federal loan programs for students. Headquartered in Braintree,

Nellie Mae works with colleges and universities nationwide to provide successful loan programs. Both co-sponsors expressed their excitement about participating in the MTTL event and are committed to reach as many potential students as possible with information about their programs.

Another key exhibitor, TERI, The Education Resources Institute, is a Massachusetts non-profit that promotes education for people of all ages and backgrounds. In addition to their guaranteed student loan programs, they also sponsor college access programs targeting underserved individuals, frequently the first generation in their families to attend college. The College Access Program in Brockton was present advising prospective students on the application and financial aid process.

Carrie Trongone, the Marketing Manager at the Mall was a tremendous help with ideas for publicity and suggestions for getting sponsors to cover our costs. She solicited donations from Mall merchants for a free drawing. In addition, she sent "blast e-mails" before the event, to a list of 1,000 Mall customers who like to know about special events at Westgate. A very busy mother of three-year old triplets, she has been a fabulous partner to our event.

*Beryl Domingo, Taunton Area Branch
and Kay Campbell, Hingham Area Branch*

Legal Advocacy Fund

Patricia Knox, LAF VP

Since 1981 the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has contributed more than \$1.3 million to more than 90 cases involving women fighting sex discrimination in higher education. LAF offers plaintiffs financial assistance and outreach for their cases. LAF does not engage in litigation.

To be considered for support, a case must have been filed in state or federal court and must include at least one claim of sex discrimination against an institution. In addition, the case must demonstrate the following:

- Potential significance for women in higher education
- The plaintiff's need for financial aid
- A high probability of success

Case support applications are due April 15, Aug. 15, and Dec. 15. LAF's Advisory Committee—an eight member review panel comprised of attorneys experienced in sex discrimination law—reviews the submitted documents and provides recommendations to LAF. The Board of Directors makes the final decision on whether or not to adopt a case and the level of support.

The Fund has helped students, faculty, staff, and administrators in higher education challenge discriminatory practices such as sexual harassment, denial of tenure or promotion, pay inequity, and inequality in women's athletics programs.

LAF promotes equity for women in higher education by

- Providing case support for sex discrimination lawsuits
- Educating the college and university community about sex discrimination and ways to improve conditions through public education on campus and in the community programs
- Organizing a network of volunteer attorneys and social scientists who consult with the public on legal strategies, resources, and the strength of current and potential lawsuits
- Recognizing innovative efforts to improve the climate for campus women through the Progress in Equity Award.

Educational Foundation

Liz Fragola, EF VP

Reaching Our Goal for the Sema Faigen International Fellowship



Sema Faigen

Since the official effort to fully endow the Sema Faigen International Fellowship last April, we have raised over \$3,000. It is a great beginning toward the end of this endeavor. With continued effort we may be able to reach our goal by the end of 2007. Branches and individuals have been very responsive to the "Pledge for Sema" campaign and this is much appreciated. I will continue to promote this pledge campaign through the coming year as well as

pursuing other fund-raising possibilities. I'm sure this will give Sema a boost as she continues to recover from back surgery.

Although the seeming constant request for donations can feel relentless, we have to remember what it's all about. It's all about equity. It's all about the precious opportunity for education that we, as members of AAUW, can provide to someone who wouldn't otherwise have that opportunity. It's about young women like Yanyan Su from China who knew she needed to educate herself to gain the skills necessary to help rural, impoverished women in her country. It's about a 25 year-old woman who told her parents that some women in the United States were giving her money to go to school at Brandeis University and they were incredulous that people who didn't know her would give her something for nothing. That is our mission in action: holding out the hand

of fellowship to a young Chinese woman, so she, in turn, will hold out that hand to others.

So, when you feel hounded by me or your EF branch liaison, remember we are working on behalf of those who we, as AAUW members, are committed to reach out to and assist. It's all about that hand of fellowship; **it's all about equity.**



The Sema Faigen International Fellowship pin is presented to donors of \$100 or more to the fund.
Donate today and wear your pin proudly.

New England Regional Conference Revised

Due to the sudden illness of Marcelline Barron, the *New England Regional Conference* scheduled for October 28th in Brattleboro, Vermont has been cancelled.

However, do continue to **save** the date as your Massachusetts State officers are currently planning an exciting state-wide meeting. Information will be available on the website- <http://www.aauw-ma.org/>



AAUW promotes education and equity for all women and girls, lifelong learning, and positive societal change.

AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

AAUW is open to graduates holding an associate or equivalent, or a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

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