



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
MARCH 2011**

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

MARCH PROGRAM

“PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL”

**MOVIE AND DISCUSSION (SINCE FEBRUARY WAS CANCELLED)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 AT 6:30 PM-NOTE TIME!
BEDFORD LIBRARY**

Since our February meeting was cancelled due to a storm, we are going to try, try again.

PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL is the gripping account of a group of brave and visionary women who demanded peace for Liberia, a nation torn to shreds by a decades old civil war. It presents an account of the role in unseating Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia. A civil war had been raging for years between the dictatorship of the Liberian president and the rebels who called themselves the LURD. The LURD wanted to overthrow the government. The film's heroine is inspired by a dream to bring Christian and Muslim women together to start a peace movement. With this extraordinary mission, the women, dressed in plain white clothes and with covered heads as a way to shed any differences of class or religion among them, stage a daily sit-in at the fish market that the Liberian president drove past every morning. He refuses to acknowledge them for weeks. The women finally get to present their mission statement to the president, as well as demand peace talks between the government and the rebels. When the peace talks finally come to fruition, a delegate group goes to Ghana to ensure that a resolution is made.

Combining contemporary interviews, archival images, and scenes of present-day Liberia, the film recounts the experiences and memories of the women who stood up to their country's tyrannical leader and brutal warlords in order to bring peace to their tormented country.

Directed by Abigail Disney and Gini Reticker, the film summarizes a long and bitter struggle and, in particular, shows the bravery and brilliance of ordinary women who formed a peace initiative that restored calm to their country. Given the harrowing plight Liberians still face today, it's clear this documentary has the potential to convince viewers why Liberia was a deserving of sympathy and aid as other better-known African nations in crisis.

A discussion will follow the showing of the film which runs 72 minutes so this will be a longer than usual program, hence the earlier than usual start time.

Inside this issue:

March Program	1
Co-Presidents' Message	2
AAUW Recognition	2
50th Anniversary	3
Message from MCSW	3
AAUW LAP	4
AAUW Awarded \$23,500	5
March Newsletter Deadline	6
Will that be check or charge?	6
Book Group	6

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Sue Giurleo and Dot Hart Rand

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders—better known as NCCWSL

Since our branch hoped to sponsor a student last year, I think you are acquainted with this annual AAUW conference held at the University of Maryland. If not, you can learn about it on the website, www.NCCWSL.org.

This year our board decided to focus on UMass-Lowell students. I have been corresponding with Meg Bond, Director, Center for Women & Work. As of February 23, I have received two applications and we have budgeted to partially sponsor two women. I will keep you informed when I hear more.

2011 AAUW National Convention

There are always several sessions at Convention for members to conduct business. You can be part it this June now that One Member, One Vote has been passed. The OUTLOOK magazine that you recently received has a section starting on page 29 (AAUW ELECTION SECTION) that I hope you will read.

The Public Policy Program hasn't changed much. By reading the **bold underlined text** you will see the changes. If you haven't reviewed our public policy program recently or you are new to AAUW, you might learn about how we "promote equity for all women and girls, life-long education and positive societal change" by reading through the document Biennial Priorities have reworked some priorities such as the section on Charter Schools. Proposed Bylaws Amendments have many changes. We should all read the amendments that apply to branches. If one of the amendments passes, we will have to take minutes at all branch meetings (see page E-7). Proposal 9 is about One Member, One Vote. This has passed and allows us to vote without attending Convention (see pages E-8 and 9).

Patricia Ho, currently AAUW Director-at-Large, is unopposed as a Candidate for AAAUW Vice President. Whether she is opposed or unopposed, we should support Patricia. She is known to most of us because she has held many positions in AAUW-MA.

AAUW Recognized as Top Nonprofit for Education, Women's Empowerment

WASHINGTON – The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has been named a top-rated nonprofit in two categories through GreatNonprofits' reviews of charitable organizations. AAUW is listed as a top women's empowerment organization and a top education organization.

GreatNonprofits, which is itself a nonprofit organization, provides an online forum for user reviews of nonprofits. The reviews by AAUW members and others who have benefited from AAUW's research, publications, fellowships and grants, and leadership programs led to AAUW's inclusion as a top nonprofit in the areas of education and women's empowerment.

"AAUW is honored to have received this high rating from such a distinguished organization," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "The rating is a fantastic validation of our organization's strong mission, values, and financial transparency."

In their reviews, supporters of AAUW shared some of their individual accomplishments and AAUW's important role in their lives. These stories, featured on the GreatNonprofits.org website, highlight examples of AAUW's work to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

GreatNonprofits was started in 2007 as a site to provide reviews and ratings of U.S. nonprofits. Users can rate more than 1.2 million nonprofits through the site and partner sites.

50th Anniversary Dinner at the Colonial Inn, Concord

Join us for a festive celebration of Bedford-Lexington's 50th Anniversary!

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 -- 6:00 PM

Heritage Room

Please join us as we celebrate 50 years of AAUW in Bedford, Lexington, and surrounding communities! We will have a fantastic program. Our own Lois Pulliam will be preparing a skit performed by branch members, chronicling our fifty years. There will be plenty of exhibits that will bring back fond memories!

It was the summer of 1961 when Lois put an ad in the papers to see if there was community support to form an AAUW branch. 60 people came to the first organizational meeting! We received our charter in the spring of 1962, and as they say, the rest is HERstory!

The cost of the three-course dinner is \$35, which includes tax and gratuity. Entrée choices will be chicken or salmon. Additionally, there will be a cash bar.

To attend, please send a check for \$35.00, payable to "Bedford-Lexington AAUW", to Irene Shea, 118 Decatur Street, #11, Arlington, MA 02474 (781-646-3039) by April 20.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with your AAUW friends. We hope to see you there!

MESSAGE FROM MCSW

I am a Commissioner on the Mass. Commission on the Status of Women. We are trying to publicize our Facebook page so it can be a resource for MA women, and I hope you will spread the word about this page on your own networks.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Massachusetts-Commission-on-the-Status-of-Women/292817120532>

--

Ruth Nemzoff, Ed.D.
Resident Scholar
Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center
Epstein 079
515 South St.
Waltham, MA 02454
www.ruthnemzoff.com



AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND—SUPPORT FOR NEW CASE IN MASSACHUSETTS

WASHINGTON – The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund announced on January 27, 2011 that it is awarding monetary support to the case Sun v. University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

Plaintiff Lulu Sun, an English professor, has alleged sex and race discrimination in the promotion process at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. Sun filed two charges of discrimination with the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD), the first in 2005 and the second in 2006. For the first charge, MCAD found probable cause of discrimination based on gender, race, and national origin. In the second charge, MCAD found probable cause of retaliation and of discrimination based on gender, race, and national origin. Sun will seek not only a promotion and damages for the alleged discrimination but also an order from MCAD requiring the university administration to undertake diversity and anti-discrimination training and to actively recruit and promote women faculty, especially women of color.

"By supporting Dr. Sun's case, we are sending employers the message that discrimination

will not be tolerated," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund seeks out cases that can bring about equitable treatment for all women in all workplaces."

AAUW support has been instrumental in the success of many promotion and tenure cases of faculty and staff at universities across the country during the 30-year history of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

"At my university, there has been a pattern of discrimination against women and people of color for over a dozen years," said Sun. "There are almost no female faculty of color at the full professor rank. I am grateful that AAUW is supporting my case as I work to change this reality."

Today, AAUW provides financial and organizational support for a select number of cases that have the potential to provide significant protection for all women. The funds come directly from generous AAUW members who support the Legal Advocacy Fund.

AAUW AWARDED \$23,500

WASHINGTON – The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has been awarded \$23,500 as part of a cy pres award from the judgment in the largest gender discrimination case to ever go to trial.

The class action lawsuit against Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation included approximately 5,600 women sales force employees who claimed gender discrimination based on pay, promotion, and pregnancy. A jury found Novartis liable for gender discrimination in May 2010, and the subsequent settlement was filed in federal court in New York in July 2010. Judge Colleen McMahon of the U.S. District Court for Eastern New York approved the final settlement agreement in November, and AAUW learned of its selection to receive a cy pres award in December.

Cy pres awards are the result of class action lawsuit funds and are typically distributed to charitable organizations. AAUW will receive this award to support its mission to advance equity for women and girls.

“We commend the brave plaintiffs and their extraordinary legal team in the Novartis case,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. “They have broken through barriers for women employees of Novartis and for women employees around the world. We hope this case will inspire more women to stand up for their rights as workers and teach a lesson to those who would discriminate on gender or any other basis. AAUW is proud to be associated with this case and honored to be the recipient of an award that affirms our work against all forms of gender discrimination.”

The award from the Novartis settlement will help fund AAUW’s continuing advancement of women and girls through our programs, research, and advocacy, especially on the issue of fair pay. As this case demonstrates, wage discrimination remains a critical problem, and women’s pay still lags behind that of men. On average, women make 77 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts, and they represent only a small percentage of those who hold top positions in business and academia. By some estimates, women may lose between \$500,000 and \$1 million because of wage discrimination over a 40-year career.

“We were so pleased to be able to recommend AAUW for a cy pres award,” said Katherine Kimpel, a partner at the firm Sanford, Wittels, and Heisler, LLP, who successfully represented the class of more than 6,000 current and former women sales employees at Novartis. “Having an ally like AAUW in the fight for gender equity is so important, and we trust that the cy pres award will help AAUW continue to make a difference in the lives of girls and women across the United States. The victory in Novartis, although gratifying, is just one step in the right direction, as far too many employers continue to deny women workers their fair share of the American dream.”

Bedford-Lexington Area Branch
Ruth Ladd, Editor
15 Pine Knoll Road
Lexington, MA 02420-1206

AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: March 18, 2010

Will that be check or charge?

We now have the option to renew our dues by check (our traditional method) or by credit card on the AAUW web site.

This option is only available to renewing members. New members will still submit a check.

More information will be provided in the April Newsletter when we send the dues form. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please contact Robin DeMott at 978-266-2909 or rkdemott@comcast.net.

BOOK GROUP

The Book group is reading "Brown Girl, Brownstones" by Paule Marshall on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 1 pm at the home of Charlotte Ford in Lexington. The background will be presented by Dorothy Smith. For more information call Jeanne Stockdale 781-275-8456.

