



**BEDFORD—LEXINGTON BRANCH AAUW
MARCH 2012**

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

**PANEL DISCUSSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING
MARCH 7, 2012, 7:00 PM
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Our meeting on March 7 will present a panel discussion addressing questions our members raised after the film, "When My God Died," shown at the February meeting. We are fortunate to have several panelists, including:

- Suzanne Sullivan, Assistant US Attorney from the U. S. Department of Justice,
- Margaret Chalupowski, an attorney and physician who is on the AAUW-MA board,
- Anaide Nahikian, Harvard School of Public Health, and

Providing perspectives from their own experience, they will lead us in discussion and stimulate ways that we may take action to stop human trafficking.

This promises to be a particularly interesting and action-inspiring program so bring your friends!

**AAUW SCORES
VOTING RECORDS**

AAUW examined the voting record of the first session of the 112th Congress in light of our particular focus. In the Senate, AAUW looked at: Campus Safety; Education; Jobs; Full-Year Spending; Cut, Cap, and Balance; the Paycheck Fairness Act; and Reproductive Health. In Massachusetts, Senator Brown-R scored 17 on reproductive health; Senator Kerry-D scored 80 (no rating on Cut, Cap, and Balance). In the House the issues were: DC Vouchers; Campus Safety; Full Year Spending; Cut, Cap, and Balance; Paycheck Fairness Act; and Reproductive Health. The entire Massachusetts Democratic delegation's scores were at least 80. James McGovern and Niki Tsongas scored 100 .

The Vote Charts are interesting to read because they can give us ideas of how we can work on advocacy. Check out: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=MA and <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Many members and guests attended our February day meeting!

The membership committee reminded us of our goal to reach six new members for 2011-2012. They requested again that branch members show their interest by encouraging their friends and neighbors to join us at one of our meetings. Membership is planning a possible spring gathering of interested community residents as well as inviting our local Members-At-Large who we hope will come and become "reacquainted" with us!

Our talented Program Vice-Presidents presented the 2004 Andrew Levine, Director & Producer, documentary, "The Day My God Died." Narrated by the actor, Tim Robbins, the story was of Tibetan girls who were kidnapped, drugged, and sold to Bombay, India brothels as prostitutes. The path to freedom was a harrowing but enlightening experience. Watching this movie showing the plight of these terrified children through their stories, which are told by the survivors, we see them explain how they became sex slaves after torture and later some were infected with HIV/AIDS. But as survivors who were rescued, they became part of a new culture to rescue more with the cooperation of many who are also real advocates to change this evil.

More information is available on the internet including a YouTube video at: www.pbs.org/independentlens/daymygoddied/

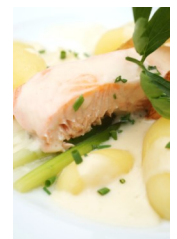
Following the film, we were seated in small groups to plan questions for our March panel on human trafficking. Most of our members were anxious to learn more about what we can do to stop this horrific affront. Since Massachusetts has finally passed laws against human trafficking, we are all anxious to hear our panel's discussion in March. Thank you Program Co-VPs, Catherine Boyd and Liz Markson!

Joan Zinderman and Alice Wadden

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Our annual May Dinner will again be held at the Colonial Inn in Concord Center on May 2 at 6:30 pm. The meal includes the following menu:

Mixed Field Greens with House Dressing
Chicken Picatta with Capers OR Grilled Salmon with Citrus Beurre Blanc
Chef's Choice of Potato
Seasonal Vegetable
Freshly Baked Cornbread and Sourdough Rolls
Apple Cobbler with vanilla ice cream
Coffee/Tea



All of that for just \$32!

AAUW LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

December 21, 2011

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the 100,000 bipartisan members and donors of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I write to express AAUW's priorities for your administration's upcoming FY2013 budget proposal. AAUW's member-adopted public policy principles support "public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to the community."¹ Since its founding in 1881, AAUW has been breaking through barriers for women and girls.

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The FY2013 Budget should Defend Civil Rights

AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals and believes a key aspect of protecting civil rights is ensuring adequate enforcement of all civil rights laws through sufficient funding and staffing of federal civil rights agencies, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Federal Contractor Compliance Programs, and the civil rights divisions of various departments-especially the Departments of Education and Justice. AAUW urges your administration to fully fund these offices, allowing them to pursue their ambitious agendas, such as updating affirmative action guidelines for federal contractors³ and developing and implementing a compensation data collection tool to investigate possible wage discrimination.⁴ In this economy, it is critical that the government make civil rights enforcement a priority because many workers are too scared to speak up for themselves in the workplace.

Additionally, AAUW urges your administration to protect government programs designed to promote gender diversity. An example of this is the National Science Foundation's Research on Gender in Science and Engineering (GSE) program, which was slated to be consolidated into the Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering (REESE) program starting in FY2012. Although this consolidation was postponed for the short-term, if it is enacted, NSF will have no program explicitly focused on gender at the K-16 education levels and no program that funds research and practice for addressing women's significant underrepresentation in the STEM workforce.⁵ Yet the GSE program is still critically necessary – despite progress in scientific achievement since the enactment of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, women remain under-represented in scientific careers.⁶ Clearly, there is much work left to be done, and AAUW believes the GSE program has a part to play in this effort.

The FY2013 Budget should Protect Women's Health

AAUW is committed to promoting "choice in the determination of one's reproductive life, and increased access to health care and family planning services including expansion of patients' rights."⁷ AAUW supports programs that protect and promote women's health, and urges your administration to protect funding for the Title X Family Planning program. AAUW strongly supports the Title X Family Planning program, which is critical in providing reproductive services to low-income women. Title X has a critical role to play in addressing America's public health problems and should not be cut in any way.

The FY2013 Budget should Promote Job Creation and Economic Security

AAUW supports programs that allow Americans to improve their economic future, either through formal education or workforce training, and believes the federal government has a critical role to play in ensuring that our nation's K-12, postsecondary, and workforce training systems are robust and open to all.

AAUW urges your administration to fully fund the Pell Grant program and rescind recent changes to the

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REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the following slate to be voted on at the April meeting:

PROGRAM TEAM: Liz Markson
 Lila Packer
 Marion Kilson
 Ruth Ladd

SECRETARY: Catherine Boyd

NOMINATING Irene Shea
 Marilyn Flaherty
 Sue Giurleo

Continuing for another year:

CO-PRESIDENTS: Alice Wadden
 Joan Zinderman

TREASURER: Robin DeMott

Respectfully submitted,
 Irene Shea, Chair, Ellen Given, Joanne Merriman McLaughlin, and Ruth Ladd

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program. Congress recently adopted legislation that, while protecting the maximum Pell award level, changed recipient eligibility rules by limiting the number of semesters students are eligible from 18 to 12 semesters. This change will particularly hurt women—in 2007-2008, women made up 81 percent of those students who received Pell Grants for more than six years, compared to 66 percent of those who received Pell Grants overall. 8 Unfortunately, the change in eligibility will be applied to students already in school and potentially one or two semesters away from finishing. AAUW urges your administration to rescind the eligibility changes to the Pell program so that nontraditional students can complete their degrees.

Further, AAUW also believes your administration should protect workforce training programs that help unemployed workers retrain and find new jobs. As our economy slowly recovers from the recent recession, many workers will need to access training to upgrade their skills to fit new demands. AAUW strongly believes that access to high-wage, high-skill jobs should be a right for women and girls from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, age, and disability backgrounds, including training for nontraditional jobs.

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Sincerely,

Lisa M. Maatz Director, Public Policy and Government Relations

FOCUS ON WOMEN IN SCIENCE: Betty W. Harris (1940-)

Betty Harris is the seventh child of Legertha Thompson Wright and Henry Hudson (Jake) Wright. She was born July 29, 1940 and has eleven siblings. Their childhood was spent on a very productive farm located along the banks of the Ouachita River in Louisiana.

They enjoyed the blessing and hardships of farm life and the cooperation and support of a large, extended family and a church-based community. Their nearby grandparents were Virginia Smith Wright and Henry Hudson Wright. Their grandparents in Arkansas were Aaron and Luemonia Cannon Thompson.

Ms. Harris received her bachelor of science and master of science degrees from Southern University and Atlanta University, respectively. Both are Historically Black Colleges. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M.

Dr. Harris's career spans more than four decades. For the first ten years, she was a college assistant professor of chemistry and mathematics. She then spent more than two decades at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), where she worked in high explosives research and development (R&D) and environmental management and restoration.

During a leave of absence from LANL, Dr. Harris was the chief of chemical technology for Solar Turbine Inc., where she managed the technical laboratories and investigated cold-end corrosion of super alloys, which was caused by sulfuric acid and soot in gas turbine engines.



For the last eleven years of Dr. Harris's career, she worked at the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Classification as a certified document reviewer. This office retained information that may compromise U.S. homeland security, and released information that could be released.

Dr. Harris is a 50-year member of the American Chemical Society.

From the National Academy of Sciences website: http://nas.nasonline.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AAHP_Database_Bio_BHarris

Ruth Ladd
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AAUW's Value Promise

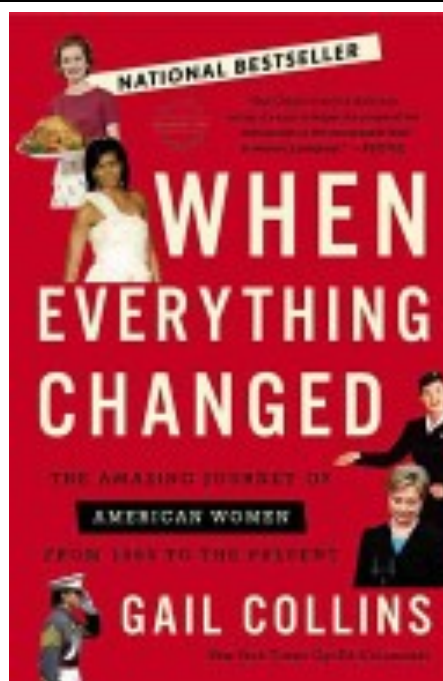
By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: March 9, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: I'll be on vacation when I do the next issue. Please submit articles early, if possible, as I'd like to get as much of it done as possible before I leave.

BOOK GROUP

The book group will meet on Wednesday, March 21st at 1:00 pm at the home of Harriet Hathaway. We will be discussing "When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present," by Gail Collins.



WOMEN IN BOTANY

Beginning with colonial America and the work of Jane Colden, we explore the historic role of women in practical and scientific botany. In addition to lecture, slides, and discussion, peruse primary source materials from the Society's library and participate in hands-on activities that commemorate the diverse roles of women in botany.

Sunday, February 26

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA

Instructor: Judith Sumner