



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
SEPTEMBER 2010**

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

STATE CONFERENCE

On Saturday, November 6, 2010 Babson's Center for Women's Leadership and AAUW-- Massachusetts will be co-hosting an important conference: "Education, Employment, Empowerment: The Global Prospects for Women".

Throughout the day, outstanding moderators and panelists will lead us in exploring the challenges and opportunities for women and girls as they pursue learning, join the workforce and add their voices to the critical discussions and decisions affecting their lives. The three concurrent morning sessions will look at these issues through a global lens, while the afternoon sessions will examine what's happening in the U.S., broadly and, more specifically in Massachusetts. The framework for both morning and afternoon sessions will be women's entrepreneurial thinking and acting, how corporations are encouraging and supporting women's education, employment and empowerment and examples of not-for-profit and advocacy initiatives that are making a difference. We will end the day with a session that not only encourages but enables participants to make real commitments to action.

The Conference (which will be held at Babson's Executive Conference Center) will begin with registration from 7:30 -- 8:15 a.m., the Welcome at 8:30, followed by the keynote speaker from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

The entire day has been created to ensure that everyone ---presenters and participants---have multiple opportunities to learn more about the issues and about the programs and perspectives that are having an impact. It has also been carefully designed to give everyone multiple opportunities to make real, meaningful connections and, most importantly, to begin acting to make a difference.

Mark your calendar now, and plan to join us on November 6 for this important event.

Liz Fragola, AAUW-MA President
Barbara Burgo, AAUW-MA Program VP
Jan Shubert, Director, Babson's Center for Women's Leadership

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 7:00 PM
BEDFORD PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

Our Program co-chairs, Catherine Boyd and Liz Markson, have arranged to have Iris Goldfarb, an artist, a yoga instructor, and teacher in the Lexington Public Schools, give us a taste of yoga in "Yoga for Living." It will not involve anyone becoming a human pretzel



or having to get down on the floor so just dress comfortably, come to the meeting, greet old friends, meet new friends, and try something new (to at least some of us).

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Sue Giurleo and Dot Hart Rand

Greetings and welcome back to the start of the 2010-2011 program year. We hope you have found places to stay cool and visit with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you on September 15 at the Bedford Library.

September Program

Program Vice Presidents, Liz Markson and Catherine Boyd, have been working hard putting together the programs for the coming year. In September we will have a 45-minute interactive program "Yoga for Living" led by Iris Goldfarb. If you are already thinking of mats on the floor, don't worry; we have been assured that most of the program will be done in our seats. Pick out some loose fitting clothes. In addition to teaching yoga, Iris is an artist teaching art at the elementary level in Lexington. The rest of the programs are listed on Page 5. Once again there are some fascinating programs that will be thought provoking as well.

Legal Advocacy Fund: Bedford Lexington Area Branch takes Third Place Nationally with a total of \$6050.00!

It was a complete surprise when the letter came from Executive Director, Linda Hallman. We had no idea until Sue Giurleo finally called Washington and learned that branch member, Sema Faigen, sent a very generous gift of \$5,000 which explains how the branch was so recognized. I hope we can make it possible for Sema to attend a branch program so we can thank her in person.

Paycheck Fairness Act

The number of emails coming from Washington AAUW staff tells us they have been extremely busy tracking the bills in Congress coming up for vote. It is hard to keep up with all the issues affecting women that have been brought to our attention.

Public Policy Chair, Lois Pulliam, sent you an email that outlined ways you can make the Paycheck Fairness Act a reality. Please read through the 8 suggestions and, at the very least, call Senator Brown's staff (202-224-4543). The more calls the better. I hope Senator Scott Brown will be deluged with so many phone calls and emails about the Pay Equity Fairness Act that he will have to be mindful of his women constituents when he votes. If this Act is passed, you will get the satisfaction of knowing you were part of it.

Fall Conference and branch trainings

Not to be outdone, the AAUW-MA state board has also been busy this summer.

October 23 is the date for our branch training programs. The trainings, one in Peabody (in the morning) and the other in Taunton (in the afternoon), will focus on public policy and making connections with colleges and universities. Everyone – not just officers – is strongly urged to attend.

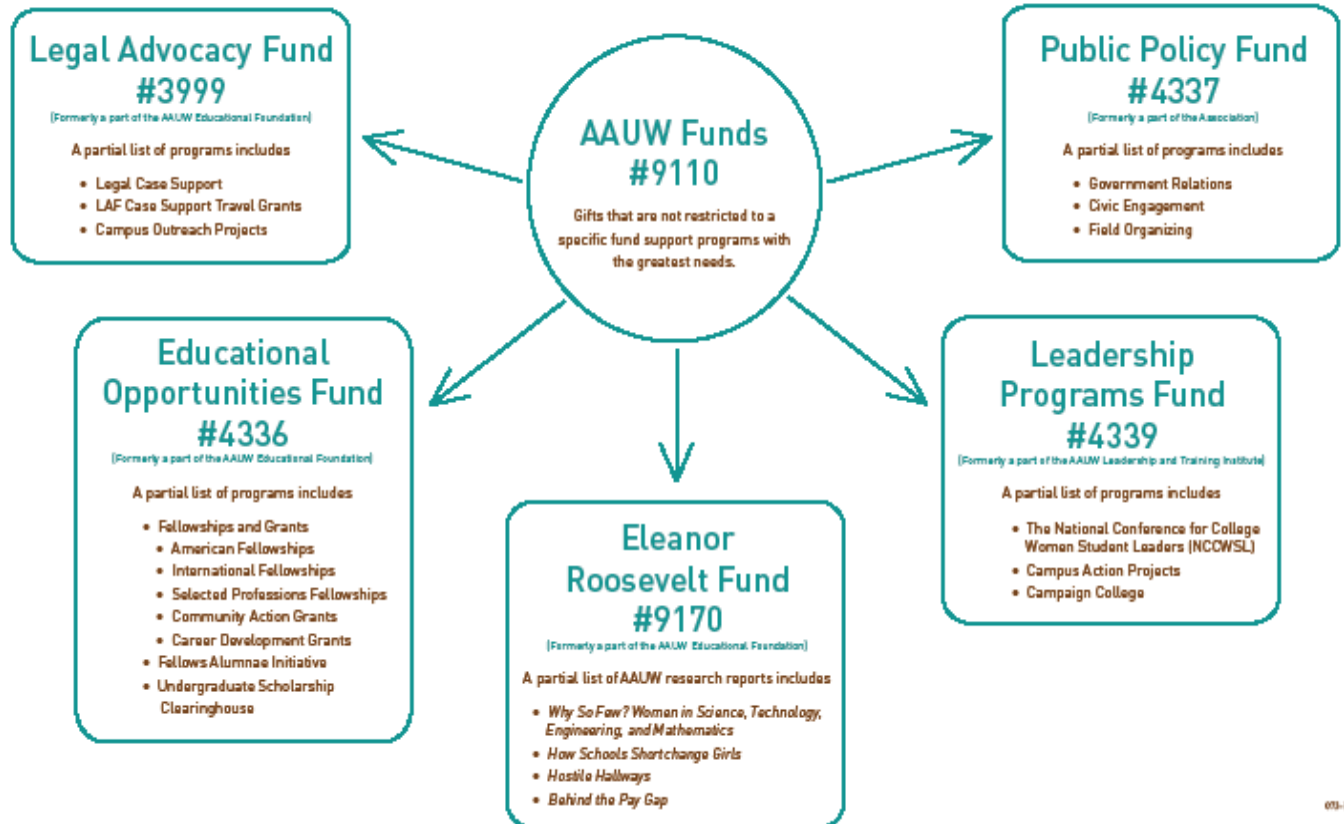
On November 6 there will be a conference at Babson College entitled "Education, Employment, and Economic Empowerment." The morning sessions focus on international issues. The afternoon will focus on national/local issues. Our own Marion Kilson will be one of the speakers. Others include Gloria Blackwell from AAUW national and panelists from Babson and CARE. More details and information about car-pools will follow.



HOW TO SUPPORT AAUW PROGRAMS

Effective July 1, 2009

Thank you for promoting equity for women and girls by supporting the crucial work of AAUW, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization! Contributions to AAUW Funds are fully tax deductible and can be restricted to any specific fund or program by writing the fund or program name or number on your check or on an accompanying document. You can also give online at www.aauw.org/contribute. Some of the most commonly designated funds and programs appear here.



075-10 1200 1109

Editor's Note: My apologies for the small font on the above diagram. The Board felt it would be helpful for everyone to see how the AAUW Funds are structured now. This diagram is from the AAUW.ORG website so I can't adjust it. If you have web access and want to see it better, go into the Member Center and type in "AAUW Funds" in the upper right corner. The first item that comes up as a link is to this diagram.

SEPTEMBER BOOK GROUP MEETING

Book group is meeting on September 21, 2010 at 1 pm at the home of Jeanne Stockdale in Bedford, 781-275-6584 . Note that this a change from the third Wednesday of the month. We are reading "**Abigail Adams**" by Woody Holton and Irene Shea is presenting the background.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WHOLE BRANCH, BUT
SPECIAL THANKS TO SEMA FAIGEN**



AAUW

Breaking through Barriers

2009 TOP TEN AWARD

THROUGH YOUR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND,
YOUR BRANCH IS AMONG THE TOP PROTECTORS OF THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF THOSE FACING DISCRIMINATION.

**AAUW BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA
(MA) BRANCH**

THIRD PLACE, TOTAL BRANCH GIVING

Linda D. Hallman, CAE

LINDA D. HALLMAN, CAE
AAUW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 5, 2010

DATE

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY FUND

We are excited about the release of [*Secrets of Powerful Women*](#), which includes a chapter by our own Lisa Maatz, director of public policy and government relations! Donors who contribute \$100 or more to the AAUW Public Policy Fund will receive a complimentary copy of the book, as well as the new public policy pin.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 2010-2011 MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS

October 6—Young Women at Germaine Lawrence, a school for troubled girls, by Susan Lawrence.

November 3—"Summer and Fall", photos of plants at the Middlesex Fells Reservation by Brian Hamblen.

December 8— Holiday Potluck with Educational Foundation Fellows.

January 5—Janet Freeman, a women's studies professor, will speak on the relevance of feminism for young women today.

February 2—A film on Liberian women's efforts to secure freedom for their country will be shown with a discussion to follow.

March 2—Holly Stockdale (Jeanne's daughter) will address the health care bill, her work on the Hill, and her new position with the American Cancer Society and its issues regarding Medicare and Medicaid.

April 6— TBD

May 4—Our 50th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner!

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...On August 26, Wal-Mart requested that the Supreme Court review *Dukes v. Wal-Mart*, a gender discrimination suit filed against the retail giant nine years ago. The original case began with assistant manager Stephanie Odle, who discovered three male assistant managers were given promotion tests while she was not and that a male co-worker in a similar position was earning \$23,000 a year more than she was. With more than one million women signed on, *Dukes* is easily the biggest employment discrimination case in U.S. history. Should it lose, Wal-Mart stands to owe more than \$1 billion in damages.

...In 1777 women lost the right to vote in NY. In 1780 women lost the right to vote in MA. In 1784 women lost the right to vote in NH. In 1807 women lost the right to vote in NJ. In 1887 women lost the right to vote in UT.

...Now only 16.8% of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 17% of the 100 Senate seats are held by women.



Bedford-Lexington Area Branch
Ruth Ladd, Editor
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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.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: September 17, 2010

NEXT BRANCH BOARD MEETING: January 12, 2011.

Note that the September meeting is on the **THIRD** Wednesday, not the first! You are welcome to visit the Bedford Public Library on the first and second Wednesdays, but AAUW won't be there!

**MOHEGANS INDUCT 1ST FEMALE CHIEF
IN OVER 300 YEARS**

HARTFORD, Conn. -- Connecticut's Mohegan tribe is inducting its first female tribal chief in almost 300 years.

In a ceremony, Lynn Malerba became chief of the Mohegans, whose Mohegan Sun casino complex in southeastern Connecticut is one of the world's largest gaming and hotel facilities and employs nearly 10,000 people.

Malerba is the Mohegans' first female chief since 1723.

The tribe, which has about 1,700 members, has been without a chief since the death in October 2007 of Ralph Sturges. He shepherded the tribe through federal recognition in 1994 and the opening of its casino two years later.

Malerba was formerly the chairwoman of the Mohegan Tribal Council, the governing body that runs the casino and the tribe's business interests.