



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH  
SEPTEMBER 2011**

**Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls**

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM  
“JUSTICE DENIED: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE”  
SPEAKER: MARGARET YAMAMOTO  
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY AT 7:00 PM**

This talk follows the story of a Japanese American family from immigration in the 1890s to imprisonment during World War II, and documents how they rebuilt their lives during the post-War years. The 45-minute presentation is richly illustrated with family and historic archival photographs.

The speaker, Margaret Yamamoto, is a member of the family featured in the presentation and was incarcerated at the age of 2 months. Today she is co-president of the New England Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, a national human rights and educational organization. She recently chaired the national organization’s Editorial Board and was an *ex officio* member of its National Board of Directors.



Margie has addressed many audiences on the subject of the Japanese internment during WWII, providing an historical summary of its events and relating their consequences to the personal experiences of her family as it coped with incarceration and subsequent return to a normal life.

Margie retired recently after more than 40 years in the communications and public relations fields. She

has worked for WGBH (the Boston PBS television station), Walt Disney Productions, General Electric, and a number of education and healthcare organizations in New York, California and Massachusetts.

She has served on the boards of the Japan Society of Boston, the Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition, and the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, as well as advisory committees for the PBS Adult Learning Service, the Greater Boston Food Bank, and the University of Massachusetts’ Institute for Asian American Studies and the Graduate School of Education.

This promises to be an outstanding start to our program year. See you there!

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## GREETINGS FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Welcome everyone to the 2011-2012 Bedford-Lexington Area Branch of AAUW's new season! We hope that everyone had a relaxing, healthy summer and is now ready for exciting programs and new goals for our branch.

We want to thank all who have supported us, as well as our wonderful Executive Board. Our board has created a working relationship and successfully listened to each others ideas.

Our membership co-chairs have a new goal of five to six new members this year. We will be encouraging each current member to provide at least one new name for a renewal of "tea groups" to discuss AAUW past, present, and future.

Our program committee has provided a variety of topics including: Japanese-American Life, Protection Against Identity Theft, the media's

long history of portraying "The Invisible Olde-Woman." The national AAUW's goal of "Eliminating Human Trafficking" will have a primary role in our programming. All these topics hopefully will provide a dynamic year ahead!

We are here for you, and remain "the keepers" of the goals of Bedford -Lexington Area Branch of AAUW.

See you soon!

Joan Zinderman and Alice Wadden

P.S. We are looking for someone willing to send cards to members who are sick or otherwise need some cheer. If you are interested, contact Joan at [joansz11@gmail.com](mailto:joansz11@gmail.com) or Alice at [awadden@comcast.net](mailto:awadden@comcast.net).

### 2011-2012 MEETING DATES

September 7, 7 pm, Bedford Public Library

October 3 (MONDAY), 7 pm, Bedford Public Library

November 2, 7 pm, Bedford Public Library

December 7, 6 pm (EF Dinner), Bedford Town Center

January 4, 11:30 am, Bedford Public Library

February 1, 11:30 am, Bedford Public Library

March 7, 7 pm, Bedford Public Library

April 4, 7 pm, Bedford Public Library

May 2, 6 pm, End-of-Year Dinner, at restaurant TBD

### EF FUNDRAISER

We are planning a cruise on the Norwegian Cruise Line *Jade* from January 31 to February 9, 2012. It is a nine-day cruise starting and ending in Barcelona. The ship sails to Funchal, Madeira; Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Arrecife in the Canary Islands; and Malaga, Spain (near Granada).

Prices, including port charges and taxes, are:  
\$690.13 for an inside cabin  
\$820.13 for an ocean view cabin  
\$940.13 for a balcony cabin

Air and extra days in Barcelona are not included.

A gift to the Education Fund will be made by the travel agency for each cabin booked.

For more information, contact Helene Rosenthal at 781-538-6903.

## LETTER FROM STUDENT WE SPONSORED

Dear Ms. Rand,

I just returned from the National Conference for College Student Women Leaders (NCCSWL) in Washington D.C yesterday evening. WOW! What a truly amazing experience. I left Washington D.C. feeling informed, inspired, empowered and blessed to have been able to attend the conference. I had the privilege to meet 527 other college women from around the world who like me, share a passion to engage and become leaders in our community. The speakers, women of distinction, workshops and experience of networking with other women was truly inspiring and the lessons learned will help me both in my personal and professional career.

Friday evening, I had the opportunity to visit the capital as I walked through the national mall and saw the many monuments and memorial parks in the city. I had never been to Washington D.C. prior to this conference and it is an experience I will always remember.

Once again, I'd like to thank the Bedford-Lexington branch of the AAUW for sponsoring me to attend the NCCSWL. Thank you!

Please see below for several photos I would like to share with you.

Jennifer Castano



Before Women of Distinction awards



Connie Chung signing autographs



Jennifer

## PUBLIC POLICY

Liz Blumenthal and Marilyn Flaherty, co-chairs

### AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM 2009–2011

The public policy program underscores AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research and speaks to women's needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span. The work of AAUW builds upon more than 125 years of responsible public participation, and the following principles provide a basis for AAUW members' actions at the local, state, national, and international levels. Implicit in each of our principles is support for government agencies administering pro-

grams, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these principles. We work to increase the number of underrepresented populations, including women, in policy- and other decision-making positions. AAUW is committed to working in partnership with diverse allies and coalitions to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

### AAUW ON WAL-MART DECISION

WASHINGTON – The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is deeply critical of [the] U.S. Supreme Court's sharply divided decision in *Wal-Mart v. Dukes*. Although the high court did not rule on the merits of the case, this misguided decision prevents the women of Wal-Mart from taking on America's largest private employer as a nationwide class-action group, leaving each woman to file her claim individually or perhaps in smaller, reformulated class-action groups. This decision appears to give a red light for future employee class-action cases and a green light for employers to continue to use highly subjective pay and sex discrimination practices.

"The Supreme Court says the Wal-Mart case is 'simply too large.' Maybe that's because—from the corner office to the corner store—gender discrimination is widespread," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "The court ignored most of the evidence, a disturbing development for other fair pay and discrimination cases. What a missed opportunity to warm up the chilly climate many women still experience

in the workplace."

Edith Arana, a named plaintiff in the case, and her attorney Arcelia Hurtado, executive director of Equal Rights Advocates, spoke at the [AAUW National Convention](#) this [on] June 18.... The women spoke as part of [A Conversation on Justice](#), a session on workplace gender discrimination.

While the ruling does not determine whether Wal-Mart is guilty of gender discrimination, it will have far-reaching effects on class certification in workplace discrimination lawsuits. AAUW strongly believes in protecting the rights of Americans to bring appropriate class-action suits against discriminatory employers. Such cases ensure that all affected workers can right the wrongs against them and stand together in the face of corporate misconduct. Sometimes, class actions are the only way to force a company to change its unfair practices. Class actions also serve as powerful deterrents to keep other employers from engaging in the same practices.

## BOOK GROUP

The book group will be meeting on Wednesday, September 21 at 1:00 pm at the home of Dorothy Smith, 11 Captain Parker Arms, #22, Lexington. We will be reading and discussing *The Secret Diaries of Charlotte Bronte* by Syrie James.

Anyone wishing to join the book group, please call Jeanne Stockdale at 781-275-8345. New members are always welcome.

Wednesdays at 1:00  
2011/2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Background</u>	<u>Hostess</u>
9/21	The Secret Diaries of Charlotte Bronte by Syrie James	Catherine Boyd	Dorothy Smith
10/19	The Tin Ticket by Deborah Swiss	Jeanne Stockdale	Jeanne
11/16	Mrs. Astor Regrets by Meryl Gordon	Sue Giurleo	Sue
12/14	Reader's Choice	N/A	Laura London
1/18	The Calligrapher's Daughter by Eugenia Kim	Helene Rosenthal	Helene
2/15	Burger's Daughter or July's People by Nadine Gordimer	Teri VanDeCarr	Catherine Boyd
3/21	When Everything Changed for the American Woman by Gail Collins	Harriet Hathaway	Harriet
4/18	Luncheon of the Boating Party by Susan Vreeland	Dorothy Smith	Joan Z.
5/16	Anna's Book By Barbara Vine	Joan Zinderman	Harriet
6/?	Luncheon		?





The American Association of University Women-Massachusetts (AAUW-MA) and the AAUW Boston Branch are proud to join with All Hands In, the United Nations Association of Greater Boston and the Boston League of Women Voters to present its Fall Conference

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ITS IMPACT ON VICTIMS, ECONOMY, AND SOCIETY

Wylie Conference Center

Endicott College, Beverly, MA

Saturday, October 29, 2011

## Working schedule

8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
9:30	Welcome
9:45 – 10:30	Keynote Speaker
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:45	First Break-out/Concurrent sessions: Focus on Victims Session A – Speaker (s) from grassroots organizations, nonprofits Session B – Government speaker on legislation, government initiatives, etc. Session C – Law Enforcement/Justice speaker
11:45 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:15 – 2:15	Plenary/Panel 3 or 4 community-based speakers (e.g., faith-based coalitions, youth-based organizations, etc.)
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 3:30	Second Break-out/Concurrent sessions: Creation of Action Plan
3:30 – 3:45	Break
3:45 – 4:30	Wrap-up/Reporting back/"Poster Section"

All are welcome. Registration \$85 including continental breakfast, lunch, beverages and snacks; \$45 for graduate and undergraduate students

A limited number of scholarships will be available

For more information contact Liz Fragola at [ekf226@comcast.net](mailto:ekf226@comcast.net), Sanaz Raoufi at [sanaz\\_raoufi@yahoo.com](mailto:sanaz_raoufi@yahoo.com) or Renea Gooch at [rlgooch97@hotmail.com](mailto:rlgooch97@hotmail.com)

Information will also be updated on the AAUW-MA website at [www.aauw-ma.org](http://www.aauw-ma.org) under the Fall Conference tab

## 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  
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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 16, 2011**

**NAAG TAKES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The human trafficking movement has been moved forward by the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG). Washington Attorney General Rob McKenna, the 2011-2012 President of the National Association of Attorneys General, has chosen human trafficking as the focus of his presidential initiative. This will involve the formation of a Presidential Leadership Council consisting of 10 Attorneys General, with the support of all 50 states Attorneys General.

AAUW-MA is very interested in this topic so look for more information soon on what we can do to make a difference.