



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
SEPTEMBER 2009**

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

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As I am writing this, it certainly does not feel as if summer is coming to a close. We finally got our hot weather in August and now we are also beginning another year in AAUW. The first important change is that our first meeting is on the SECOND Wednesday of the month, September 9th, and it will be at the LEXINGTON Library. We changed the date so we would not be meeting before Labor Day and changed the place because the Bedford library was not available. The library is called Cary Memorial Library and is located at 1874 Massachusetts Ave. The meeting room is located on the lower level. There is parking in back of the library, but it is metered and the meters are in effect until 8 pm. There is some free parking around the common for those who do not mind walking.

I (Sue) was pleased to be a delegate to the National convention. Lilly Ledbetter told us her inspiring story. This was followed by a dynamic talk from Congresswoman Rosa DeLaura (D-CT). Lisa Maatz was also very motivating in her push for us to continue the work of equal pay for woman by challenging all of us to contact our senators to support the Paycheck Fairness Act.

We have some interesting and varied programs planned for this year. Brochures about our meetings will be placed in libraries, but we would also like to connect with other groups that might have a special interest in our meetings. Please help us publicize these meetings by

getting information to these groups, or by letting us know about them so that we can contact them. Also the best way to increase our membership is to invite a friend or neighbor to come to a meeting with you.

There is a State Meeting on Saturday, September 12 in Brockton. The 2010 census is important to us and we need to do everything that we can to have everyone in the state counted. Massachusetts is in real danger of losing one of our congressional seats. One thing that I learned is that college students should be counted where they live for most of the year. If they are living away at college, that is the state in which they should be counted and Massachusetts has many students living here. Also at this meeting there will be time to meet your counterparts from other branches.

We are looking forward to a good year in 2009-2010.

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**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM:
JOSEPHINE WRIGHT CHAPMAN, ARCHITECT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 7:00 PM,
LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Program Vice-President: Marilyn Flaherty; Assistant: Irene Shea

Come for an illustrated lecture on the life and work of Josephine Wright Chapman, a Massachusetts native who was one of America's pioneering female architects at the dawn of the 20th century.

Chapman's career choice was unconventional, yet she enjoyed unexpected success with a wide variety of clients and design projects. This fast paced and entertaining review of Chapman's personal and professional life will be presented by regional historian, Richard A. Duffy, of Arlington.

Duffy is the author of three photographic histories and numerous newspaper features, and is well known in Greater Boston and abroad for his research and lectures on various historical aspects of the Mystic River watershed.

Let's start the year off with a great attendance: pass the word about this outstanding program to your neighbors, friends, and co-workers.



Chapman Arms in Cambridge: designed by
J.W.Chapman

SAD NEWS



Elaine Engelberg, past member of Bedford-Lexington Area Branch, passed away on June 23, 2009 at age 79. She taught history and psychology at Lexington High School and continued her love of learning well into retirement. She received her doctorate in 1995 from Brandeis University as one of the oldest to ever do so. Her dissertation was entitled, "Gender Equity in Schools" which certainly fits well with AAUW's interests.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: 2009-2010

- | | |
|---|--|
| October 7 Bedford Public Library, 7:00 pm "Lighthouse Living" by Dot Hart Rand, Bedford-Lexington Area Branch co-President | February 3 Bedford Public Library, 11:30 am "Is That Your Child? Mothers Talk About Rearing Bi-racial Children" (book talk) by authors Marion Kilson and Florence Ladd |
| November 4 Bedford Public Library, 7:00 pm "Women's Heritage Trails" by Sylvia McDowell | March 3 Bedford Public Library, 7:00 pm "Botany at Wellesley: Not Your Typical Flower Garden" by Asst. Professor Kristen Niomi Jones, Director |
| December 4 Hancock Church, Lexington Center, 6:00 pm Branch's Annual Educational Foundation Dinner and Presentation by a Fellowship Recipient | April 5 Bedford Public Library, 7:00 pm Topic TBD |
| January 6 Bedford Public Library, 11:30 am "Facing Choices and Challenges: Women Working in S.T.E.M. Fields" A panel of women working as scientists and engineers at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, moderated by Ruth Ladd | May 5 Bedford Town Center Annual Dinner |

2009-2010 AFTERNOON (1:00 PM) BOOK GROUP

Questions? Call Joan Zinderman at 978-371-5647 or Jeanne Stockdale at 781-275-8345

| | BOOK | BACKGROUND | HOSTESS |
|--------------|---|------------------|--|
| September 16 | <i>The Ginger Tree</i> by Oswald Wynd | Charlotte Ford | Jeanne Stockdale |
| October 21 | <i>A Pirate of Exquisite Mind</i> by Diana & Michael Preston | Annette Slocum | Charlotte Ford |
| November 18 | <i>Dark Tide</i> by Stephen Puleo | Harriet Hathaway | Harriet Hathaway |
| December 16 | Second Annual Book Swap Potpourri | All members | Laura London |
| January 20 | <i>The Piano Teacher</i> by Janice Y.K. Lee | Joan Zinderman | Jeanne Stockdale |
| February 17 | <i>The Post American World</i> by Fareed Zakaria | Irene Shea | Mary Brzezinski |
| March 17 | <i>Rabbit at Rest</i> by John Updike | Laura London | Joan Zinderman (at Concord Library) |
| April 21 | <i>Honeymoon in Tehran</i> by Azadeh Moaveni | Dorothy Smith | Dorothy Smith |
| May 19 | <i>The Good Earth</i> by Pearl Buck | Janet Khattab | Sue Giurleo |
| June 16 | Pot luck luncheon and book planning for next year | All members | TBD |

LEGAL ADVOCACY UPDATE

Case Support

In late May, the Educational Foundation board voted to divide \$18,000 in funding between the five current Legal Advocacy Fund-supported plaintiffs:

[*Jaurequito v. Feather River Community College*](#) (CA)

[*Mansourian, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al.*](#) (CA)

[*Schuster v. Berea College*](#) (KY)

[*Thein v. Feather River Community College*](#) (CA)

[*Wartluft. v. Feather River Community College*](#) (CA)

Amicus Brief

On June 5, 2009, AAUW joined the National Partnership for Women & Families in signing an amicus brief to be filed with the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in the sexual harassment case *Harris v. Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City*. Harris says that she encountered persistent harassment in her job at the Baltimore Department of Public Works, including being called “b---h” and being forced to sit at a table covered in pornographic images of women. The district court awarded summary judgment to the city, finding that the treatment

Harris endured was not perpetrated “because of sex” and was not sufficiently severe or pervasive.

The amicus brief argues that the district court improperly discounted evidence that harassment was directed at Harris, and that, in any case, actions not specifically directed at a plaintiff should be considered in determining whether sexual harassment meets the standard of severe or pervasive. Further, it argues that displays of pornography and use of epithets like “b_ _ _h” are inherently gender-motivated harassment.

Reminders

Sexual Assault on Campus Project:

LAF is crafting a manual and a Program in a Box focused on campus sexual assault policies in collaboration with the AAUW Research Department, Harvard University Law Professor and Title IX expert Diane Rosenfeld, her students, and Students Active for Ending Rape. The materials will be released in fall 2009.

Title IX in High School Athletics Project:

In collaboration with the AAUW Research Department and the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, LAF plans to release a new tool kit and Program in a Box in the fall on Title IX en-

forcement in high school athletics. These materials will focus on the rights of girl athletes and how schools can and should be approached to ensure title IX implementation and enforcement.

Case Support: If you would like to make a case recommendation, please contact laf@aauw.org. Recommendation forms are accepted on a rolling basis.

Campus Outreach: If you would like to receive funding for an LAF Campus Outreach Program in your community, please fill out the form in the second paragraph on the [campus outreach page](#) and send it to laf@aauw.org.

Online: For the latest LAF news, visit the AAUW website. The [LAF landing page](#) is updated several times a week to include links to news articles on relevant LAF issues. The LAF staff also regularly contribute to [AAUW Dialog](#).



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. 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 programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these prin-

ciples. 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.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

AAUW's Executive Director, Linda Hallman, has sent the following statement to all state and branch Public Policy chairs:

"AAUW has been victimized by an act of blatant fraud...An agent of Bonner & Associates, through its work with the American Coalition for CleanCoal Electricity, has forged one or more letters from AAUW to members of Congress. Other well-known organizations were similarly targeted, and the goal was to further the coal industry's lobbying efforts against the Clean Energy and Security Act..."

Interestingly, Ms. Hallman points out that energy policy is not a topic on which AAUW advocates, but we are best known for playing a role in some of the greatest success stories in the areas of pay equity, family-friendly workplaces, and education. Hallman also notes its sympathy with other organizations having been portrayed in a false light, and supports Rep. Edward Markey's (D-MA) investigation into this matter.



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.

We are on the web:
www.aauw-ma.org,
then look under
Branches

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: September 20, 2009

AAUW-MA FALL MEETING: September 12, Massasoit C. C.

AAUW AND THE 2010 CENSUS:

ACHIEVING EQUITY FOR OUR NATION

The state's fall meeting is for EVERYONE, not just officers. Check out the BayStater (if you are a member you should have received it by e-mail or, if you don't have e-mail, it is enclosed with this newsletter). It is available on-line at www.AAUW-MA.org.

Contact one of our co-presidents or anyone else on the board if you want to offer a ride or request a ride down to Brockton's Massasoit Community College. Registrative is at 9:00 am and it all wraps up at 2:15 pm. Lunch is provided. The cost is only \$15. Such a deal!

PUBLIC POLICY—POINTS FROM LOIS PULLIAM

SAVE THE DATE!

The Coalition for Choice, of which AAUW is a longtime member along with many other organizations, plans a Lobby Day at the State House for Tuesday, October 6, from about 10 a.m.--2 p.m., and I plan to attend. Please consider joining me (I'm taking the bus to Alewife and the T to Park Street, an easy trip).

We'll be lobbying our representatives and senators at the Great and General Court, asking for their support on pro-choice bills (and opposition to anti-choice ones). If you have not been living on Mars then you know that women's rights can never be taken for granted. More on the specific bills we have been following will be in the October bulletin.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that President Obama, in Women's History month (March, 2009), named Valerie Jarrett to head a White House panel to advise him on issues facing women and girls? This council is designed to help Cabinet agencies and departments collaborate on ways to make sure women are provided opportunities offered to men. Upon signing the Executive Order, he commented that "the fight for gender equality is far from over," and cited pay disparities, domestic violence, and the relatively few women in Congress and in the executive offices of major companies.