



# BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH DECEMBER 2016

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND BRUNCH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016, 11:00-1:30 BEDFORD TOWN CENTER (ENTER FROM THE REAR OF THE BUILDING)

We hope to have an excellent turn-out for our annual gathering to hear a couple of AAUW Fellows and to enjoy brunch with friends, old and new. Brunch will include gluten-free and dairy-free options as well as a variety of juices and hot beverages. The cost is just \$20 this year as we want it to be as affordable as possible. So bring your friends and relatives! Diane Leahy's husband is again providing chocolate bars for all attendees (as if you needed another incentive to attend!).

We are delighted to introduce the two exceptional young women who will be our speakers:

**Alice Achieng, a citizen of Kenya, is an AAUW International Fellow** pursuing her Master of Public Health, with concentration in Global Health, at Boston University School of Public Health. Alice earned her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Economics at Egerton University in Kenya, where her work focused on educating families and youth groups about soil conservation and child malnu-



trition prevention. Alice then completed her Master of Science in Soil Science at Texas A&M University, where she achieved a GPA of 4.0. While studying at Boston University, Alice has worked as Research Assistant at Massachusetts General Hospital and as Case Manager at Bay Path Elder Services, advocating for elderly and disabled individuals, enabling them to live independently and with dignity. Upon graduation, Alice will continue "to focus on community and global health issues, especially those that affect girls' and women's health."

Diane Leahy's husband Jim is again providing gourmet chocolate bars for all attendees (as if you needed another incentive to attend!).  
(continued on page 2)

### INDEX

December Brunch	1
Presidents' Message	2
EOF Good News Report	3
Upcoming Programs for 2016-17	4
Recycling Opportunity	4
Books	4
Directions to the Bedford Town Ctr	4
Newsletter Deadline	5
Book Group	5

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We had a wonderful turnout at our November program with Senator Barrett! Attendees didn't just sit there, either—they engaged the senator in a lively discussion that was mostly focused on Referendum questions 2 and 4 but covered other topics as well. We were pleased to be joined by several members of League of Women Voters and other guests.

The election shocked most people, of all persuasions. Clearly AAUW has much work still to do. For those who receive the Association's emails, there are a host of opportunities to work to make a difference on issues critical to women and girls. AAUW is more important than ever so we need to spread the word about what our organization does. See the last page (upper right) for AAUW's Value Promise. You may be so used to seeing it there that you don't pay much attention to what it says...and means! Also, in case you need to be reminded, AAUW's Mission Statement is: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. We need to remind young women, especially, that equity is not a given and gains that have been made are not necessarily guaranteed unless we keep the pressure on.

We look forward to the December brunch. See you there!

*Ruth Ladd and Stacy Fatale*

(continued from page 1)

**Mee Her, an AAUW Career Development Grantee, is a Master's Candidate at**

Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management, where she is pursuing a dual master's degree in Sustainable International Development combined with Conflict Resolution and Coexistence.

Mee earned her Bachelor of Arts in Language and Culture of Asia and Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. From 2011-2013, Mee served in the Peace Corps in the Republic of Azerbaijan, where she worked as an English Educator, Community Organizer and Leader, and Pre-Service Trainer and Mentor. Mee's professional



and volunteer activities are many and varied. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Mee served as Co-Chair of the Hmong-American Student Association, and as Research Scholar on "Hmong Parents' Perception of Early Marriage and Higher Education." Currently, Mee serves in the American Red Cross as Adult & Infant First Aid/CPR Instructor. Mee is "passionate about improving educational opportunities and quality of life for refugees, especially women and children."

These two remarkable young women will have much more to share with us about their experiences and goals. Come relax and celebrate with good food and good friends, and see the difference *you* make through your support of AAUW's Educational Opportunities Fund.

## Educational Opportunities Fund Committee December Brunch Invitation

Please plan to join AAUW branch friends at our Holiday Brunch and Fundraiser for the Educational Opportunities Fund on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bedford Town Center. This holiday celebration is one of the highlights of our program year, and many branch members have expressed how much they love the opportunity to meet two of the brilliant and inspiring young AAUW fellows and grantees studying at universities in our area.

This year we are delighted to welcome AAUW International Fellow Alice Achieng and AAUW Career Development Grantee Mee Her. Please be sure to read about them in the article beginning on page one of this newsletter!

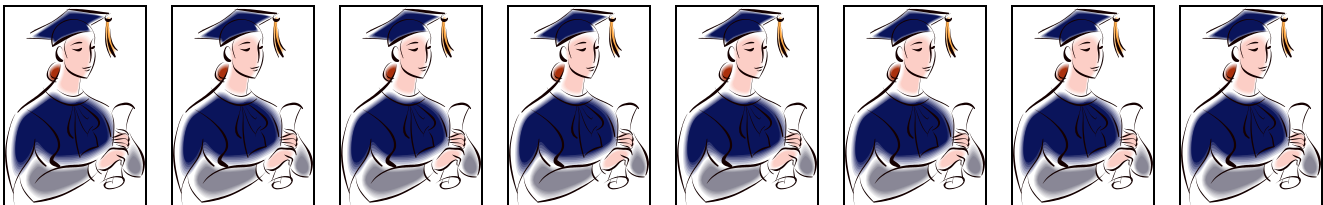
For 128 years, AAUW has provided more than \$100 million to more than 12,000 women and projects, advancing the education, equality and well-being of women and girls worldwide. These prestigious awards catapult women forward in their graduate work and careers, and 43% of AAUW's fellowships and grants advance women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. In their young lives, many recipients of AAUW's fellowships and grants are already doing humanitarian work and mentoring the next generation of women and girls!

Come to the Brunch, hear our wonderful speakers, and celebrate with good food and good friends! Many thanks to all branch members whose generosity made last year's EOF Fundraiser a great success! Let's do it again! Our goal again this year is 100% participation. You can and do make a difference, and your donation is greatly appreciated!

*Diane Leahy*

*Joan Zinderman*

Educational Opportunities Fund Committee



# AAUW

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR 2017 (note the various locations!)**

March 1—Erin Kelley, Title IX Coordinator  
at Bentley University  
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

April 5—Michelle Roche, Director of Career  
and Technical Education, on  
the Girls in STEM Initiative at  
Minuteman Tech  
MINUTEMAN TECHNICAL  
SCHOOL  
[LAF celebration and collec-  
tion]

May 3—Nancy Nelson, Superintendent of  
Minuteman National Historical  
Park on the National Park Ser-  
vice's 100th Anniversary  
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

June 7—End of Year Dinner at the Club Car  
Café in West Concord

## **RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY**

As in previous years, Pat Costello is collecting those cards we all get in the mail associated with a solicitation for a donation to a charity. If you can't use them, consider bringing them to the December Brunch. Ruth Ladd will collect them and get them to Pat to take the Bedford VA for residents' use.

## **BOOKS**

The need for books at the Russell School continues. Some of you heard the principal speak a couple months ago. We have delivered hundreds of books already but there are 400 students at the school. Another item needed is small, inexpensive items that can be acquired by students who earn "paws" for good behavior. They trade the paws for items. [NOTE: I (Ruth Ladd) have had great luck at the Staples clearance space where containers of fun markers, little notebooks, fancy pencils, etc. are drastically marked down to \$0.25-\$1.00.]

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE BEDFORD TOWN CENTER**

The address is 12 Mudge Way. It can be accessed in two ways:

From the east on Rts. 4 and 225, take a left onto Elm Street which is just past the town common. Take the first right onto School Way and then the next left onto Mudge Way. That will take you into the parking lot for the Center. Go in the door and up the ramp to our room.

From the west on Rts. 4 and 225, take a right onto Mudge Way and then the first left, which is still Mudge Way. Follow that around the town office building and then straight down the hill to the parking lot for the Center. Go in the door and up the ramp to our room.

Newsletter Editor  
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.

➔ **MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: February 16, 2017**

## BOOK GROUP

**The group meets at 1:00 pm. New members are most welcome!**  
**Contact Catherine Boyd at [catherinefboyd@verizon.net](mailto:catherinefboyd@verizon.net) for directions.**

**December 21** at Sue Giurleo's (food by committee)  
Book Swap

**January 18** at Concord Public Library (Joan Zinderman)  
Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy by Karen Abbott (Jeanne)

**February 15** at Helene Rosenthal's  
We Are Market Basket by Daniel Kerschun and Grant Welker (Irene)

**March 15** at Concord Public Library (Joan Zinderman)  
The American Heiress by Dorothy Eden (Joan)

**April 19** at Catherine Boyd's (catered by Janet Khattab)  
My Life on the Road by Gloria Steinem (Janet)

**May 17** at Mary Brzezinski's bring next year's recommendations  
Year of Wonders, a Novel About the Plague by Geraldine Brooks (Mary)

**June 21** at Catherine Boyd's  
The Cat Who Ate Danish Modern by Lilian Jackson Braun (Catherine)

