

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

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Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.
Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

HINGHAM AREA BRANCH APRIL 2011 CALENDAR

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| April 2, Saturday | State Meeting 9:00 AM
UMass Boston
"Title IX Compliance" See <i>Bay Stater</i> for details |
| April 6, Wednesday | Book Group 7:00 PM
<i>Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet</i>
Home of Lynne O'Brien |
| April 7, Thursday | Adventures in Dining 6:30 PM
Orta, RT 53, Hanover
RSVP: Sondra Schmidt |
| April 12, Tuesday | Branch Meeting 7:00 PM
Hingham Public Library, Hingham, MA
<i>Healing Words: Life's Journey Through Poetry</i>
Presented by Susan Mahan |
| April 14, Thursday | Declutter Bugs 4:30 PM
Panera Bread, Derby Street Shoppes, Hingham, MA |
| April 14, Thursday | Girls' Game Night, 7:00 PM
Home of Chrisanne Gregoire |
| April 20, Wednesday | Writing Group 7:30 PM
Brewed Awakening, Hingham |

BRANCH MEETING

Healing Words: Life's Journey Through Poetry presented by Susan Mahan.

AAUW member Susan Mahan began writing poetry when her husband of 26 years died of leukemia in 1997. Poetry allowed her to express the intense grief she felt after losing him, but it eventually gave her a new start in life. She had wanted to be a writer as a kid, but life had gotten in the way, and she didn't pick up a pen until after her husband died.

Susan has now written over 300 poems, has self-published 4 chapbooks of poetry, and has been published in many anthologies and other publications. It is with conviction that she says, "Poetry has saved me." Susan will read a selection of poems that chronicle her journey. She will be happy to answer questions from the audience as well.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Equal Pay Day is April 12, 2011. With the economy not improving and people still losing their jobs it is most important for women's rights that Equal Pay legislation be passed. Pay equity is no longer a matter

of fairness; it is critical for the survival of families in order to meet their basic needs. Today as never before women are increasingly providing the primary source of income for their families.

With the mention of Washington, I hope some of you will join us in DC for the National Convention being held this year from June 16th to 19th at the Renaissance Washington Hotel. There are a few of us from the Hingham Area Branch attending and we would love to have more join us. Plane and room reservations are being made, so let me know if you would like to attend. The speakers list for the convention has not been published as yet, but former famous ladies who have been with us were: Janet Reno, Madeline Albright and Nancy Pelosi. Please think about joining us for the convention.

Our annual dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 10th at Reggio's in Norwell. It should be a wonderful evening with much time to socialize. Contact Susan Mahan for reservations as she needs to let the restaurant know how many will be attending. We hope to see you all there for our final meeting of the year.

The May banquet will be held on May 10 at 6:30 pm Reggio's Restaurant in Norwell.

We will be having a buffet that includes fresh Italian bread and butter, house salad with homemade dressing, penne marinara, chicken parmigiana and meatballs. There will be a coffee and tea station, and trays of pastries for dessert. **Other beverages must be paid for in cash that night.** I will need people to send me a check made out to "AAUW Hingham" for \$25.00. Please send it to me at 18 Grove Street, E. Weymouth, MA 02189. Please contact me if you have any questions. ***I hope to see you all there!***

Susan Mahan
Social Committee

*Reggio Ristorante & Catering
42 Washington Street (Route 53)
Norwell, MA 02061
781 - 982 - 5505*

**We are located just seconds from the Jct. of Route 228 & Route 53 which is
Queen Anne's Corner on the Hingham / Norwell border*

From Boston & points north:

Take Route 93 south to Route 3 south. Take exit # 14 off Route 3. At end of exit, go to light and turn left (at Home Depot). Go to third light and turn right onto Route 53 south. Go 1/8 of a mile to Reggio Ristorante on the right side. (We are between Citizen's Bank & Taco Bell).

From Plymouth and points south:

Take Route 3 north to exit # 14. Go right off the exit. Go to next light and turn right onto Route 53 south. Go 1/8 of a mile to Reggio Ristorante on the right side (We are between Citizen's Bank & Taco Bell).

From Framingham and points west:

Take 128 south to the end until it turns into 93 north. Stay on this for a short while until the junction of Route 3, then take Route 3 south (towards Cape Cod). Take exit # 14 off Route 3. At end of exit, go to light and turn left (at Home Depot). Go to third light and turn right onto Route 53 south. Go 1/8 of a mile to Reggio Ristorante on the right side (We are between Citizen's Bank & Taco Bell).

ADVENTURES IN DINING

The next Adventures in Dining event will be on April 7, at 6:30 p.m., at Orta, in Pembroke
<http://ortarestaurant.com/>

Please R.S.V.P. to Sondra Schmidt at beesnees@comcast.net

TIME TO RENEW DUES See the dues form below.

American Association of University Women--Hingham Area Branch

Its membership renewal time again! **Renewal deadline is June 1, 2011 for 2011-2012**

Name: _____ Address: _____

Telephone Number _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Occupation _____ Undergraduate College/Degree _____

Graduate College/Degree _____

Renew your AAUW membership by sending a check made out to: AAUW - Hingham Area Branch

And mail to: Sandra Carle, 12 Karlyn Road, Weymouth, MA 02188

Association Dues	\$49.00	Includes subscription to <i>AAUW Outlook</i>
State Dues	\$15.00	Includes subscription to <i>BayStater</i>
Branch Dues	<u>\$11.00</u>	Includes subscription to <i>News of Note</i>
Total Dues:	\$75.00	

Life Members: \$26.00

Voluntary Contributions:

AAUW Funds	
Educational Foundation	\$ _____
Legal Advocacy Fund (minimum suggested donation \$5.00)	\$ _____

Recognition Award \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Skills you could share with AAUW

____ Bookkeeping ____ Webdesign/Maintenance ____ Program Presentation ____ Computer Skills
____ Editing and Writing Articles ____ Graphic Design ____ Other Area (please
list) _____

Would you like to attend any of the interest groups?

____ Book Club ____ Game Night ____ Dining Out ____ Writing ____ Declutter
Bugs ____ Knitting
____ Other interest you might like to see (Please list) _____

Please return this form with your dues by June 1, 2011! Thank You!

PUBLIC POLICY

"They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." - Ben Franklin

Women Candidates on Ballot Across the Country: After the 2010 midterm elections, the number of women in Congress fell from the previous Congress for the first time in 30 years. It is heartening, then, that women candidates are already positioned to play big roles in the 2012 election cycle. As numerous senators have announced plans to retire in 2012, several women have already announced their candidacy for open seats in Connecticut, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Texas. In West Virginia's gubernatorial race, current and former secretaries of state, Natalie Tennant (D) and Betty Ireland (R), respectively, have already made their candidacies official. Additionally, in a special election to replace Representative Chris Lee (R-NY), NY State Assemblywoman Jane Corwin (R) and Erie County Clerk Kathy Hochul (D) have already emerged as the frontrunners.

Elect Her, AAUW's joint initiative with Running Start, acknowledges the necessity to build the pipeline of women running for office in order to diminish the long-standing political leadership gender gap. This initiative consists of a full continuum of programming to empower women from high school onward to view themselves as political candidates. Learn more by reading the Elect Her FAQ.

Schools 'Failing' Under No Child Left Behind Act Standards: An estimated 82 percent of U.S. schools could be labeled as "failing" under the nation's No Child Left Behind Act this year, Education Secretary Arne Duncan said Wednesday. The Department of Education estimates the number of schools not meeting targets will skyrocket from 37 to 82 percent in 2011 because states are toughening their standards to meet the requirements of the law. The schools will face sanctions ranging from offering tutoring to closing their doors. "No Child Left Behind is broken and we need to fix it now," Duncan said in a statement. "This law has created a thousand ways for schools to fail and very few ways to help them succeed." Duncan delivered the news in remarks to a House education and work force committee hearing, in urging lawmakers to rewrite the Bush-era act. The law was established in 2002 and many education officials and experts argue it is overdue for changes. The current law sets annual student achievement targets designed with the goal of having all students proficient in mathematics and reading by 2014, a standard now viewed as wildly unrealistic. Duncan said the law has done well in shining a light on achievement gaps among minority and low-income students, as well as those who are still learning English or have disabilities. But he said the law is loose on goals and narrow on how schools get there when it should be the opposite.

Court Rules in Favor of JMU and Title IX: the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit against James Madison University for its decision to eliminate seven men's sports teams and three women's sports teams. A group called Equity in Athletics had sued the university, claiming that the cuts were unfair to men's sports under Title IX. This was an interesting claim, given that JMU announced it was cutting the teams in order to be in compliance with Title IX, the civil rights law created to ensure gender equity in education. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against Equity in Athletics' claim that the JMU's Title IX compliance effort intentionally discriminated against male students. AAUW strongly supports Title IX and opposes any efforts that would weaken its effectiveness or undermine its enforcement.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR OUR APRIL 2nd STATE CONFERENCE AT UMASS
BOSTON:
"TITLE IX: KNOW THE SCORE"

Clash over Student Voting Rights: Republican lawmakers in New Hampshire recently introduced a handful of bills that would limit college students' ability to vote in the state. The proposed legislation

would end Election Day registration and only allow college students to vote in their college towns if their parents had previously established permanent residency in the town. However, in light of vehement opposition from Democrats and students, the bills failed to pass the state House Election Law Committee. Their demise may have been related to a controversial YouTube video in which New Hampshire State House Speaker William O'Brien called students "foolish" and said they "just vote with their feelings." Republicans in Wisconsin and North Carolina have also introduced bills to restrict voter registration, including requiring state-issued ID cards. Democrats believe the Republican effort to change voter registration laws is an attempt to restrict Democratic voters in potential 2012 battleground states.

AAUW members have a long tradition of voter education and registration. AAUW branches can increase the numbers of regular voters by bringing nonvoters into their network. This can be done woman to woman. Check out articles and youtube video regarding the above:

<http://bigthink.com/ideas/31602>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4jsgG0VEak>

White House Conference on Bullying Prevention: the Obama administration held the first ever White House Conference on Bullying Prevention, aimed at drawing attention to the issue of bullying and discussing the growing push to prevent it. In conjunction with the conference, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama released a joint video address. The president and first lady are encouraging all Americans to get involved in the anti-bullying movement through the website stopbullying.gov.

Brief Filed in Support of Plaintiffs in Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. On the first day of Women's History Month, AAUW joined more than 30 organizations to sign an amicus "friend of the court" brief in support of the plaintiffs in Wal-Mart Stores, Inc v. Dukes, the enormous class action gender-based pay discrimination suit against the retail giant. As we reported last week, the brief urges the Supreme Court to allow the case to proceed, and is only the next step for Betty Dukes and the other 9,500 other plaintiffs on the road to justice. If the justices fail to allow the class action to proceed, the brief argues that this would severely limit the ability of employees who experience discrimination to seek justice in the courts.

White House Call for Feedback on Education System: As a part of the administration's new initiative, Advise the Advisor, White House Director of Domestic Policy Melody Barnes released a video message calling for feedback from parents, teachers, and students on what is and isn't working in schools across the country. This is a great opportunity for the public to "crowd-source" solutions to some of America's most pressing problems with education.

Public Colleges Face Financial Exigency: Moody's Investor Services released a report that forecasts an increase in public colleges declaring "financial exigency" in the near future. "Financial exigency" refers to financial situations dire enough to warrant the need for drastic steps, such as firing tenured faculty. Moore's predictions are created with the assumption that state education budgets will continue to be cut and that there will not be corresponding federal stimulus increases.

Baldwin Aims to Ratify ERA: Rep. Tammy Baldwin (R-WI) introduced a bill to speed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The legislation (H.J. Res. 47) would remove the deadline for ratification and render the Constitution amended once three additional states ratify. The last congressional deadline for state ratification ran out in 1982 with ratification from only 35 of the needed 38 state legislatures. Highlighting the continued importance of ratifying ERA, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia recently noted his belief that the Constitution does not currently prevent discrimination on the basis of sex. AAUW is one of over 25 organizations to have endorsed Baldwin's bill, consistent with our 2009-2011 Public Policy Program. We oppose all forms of discrimination and support constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.

Women Workers and the Protests in Wisconsin : With heated debates over public sector union rights waging in Wisconsin and other Midwestern states, women workers in particular have substantial interests at stake in the outcomes. Once qualifications are taken into account, public sector employees on the whole make less than their private sector counterparts, including both wages and benefits. Unionized women still earn more on average than those who are non-unionized, however, and women are making up an increasing proportion of union members each year.

Women would be disproportionately affected by the proposed legislation restricting collective bargaining rights as they make up over half of all state public sector workers nationwide, and 61 percent of the public sector workforce at the local level. Further, firefighters and police and sheriff's patrol officers, the most common occupations of male local government workers, have been exempted from the proposed laws, while teachers, primarily women, have been specifically targeted. Laws which would hobble the right of public unions to bargain collectively would have dire effects on women and their families.

Department of Labor Settles Discrimination Cases: a \$700,000 settlement was announced on behalf of 151 minority job applicants to Intercall, a federal contractor. During a routine compliance review, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) found the company to be in violation of an executive order that prohibits federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, disability or status as a protected veteran. This comes after the OFCCP found on behalf of 970 victims of gender discrimination by Green Bay Dressed Beef for a \$1.65 million settlement early last month.

Proposal to Fix Social Security: Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor, offered his solution to resolve concerns about the future solvency of Social Security. Currently, the Social Security payroll tax only applies to earnings up to particular ceiling. Reich's plan calls for raising that ceiling, from \$106,800 to \$180,000. This would restore the 1983 Greenspan commission's plan to apply the payroll tax to 90 percent of income covered by Social Security.

Such a solution is a refreshing shift from the barrage of recent proposals to raise the Social Security retirement age, which would disproportionately harm women who receive less pay and live longer on average than men. AAUW believes that, while not sufficient, social security is vital to women's economic security.

Reports Show Proposed House Budget Cuts Would Hurt Economy: Two recent economic reports suggest that budget cuts passed by the Republican House in H.R. 1, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act would actually hurt the economy. A report by Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody Analytics, reveals that the measure would result in a net loss of 700,000 jobs by the end of 2012. Another report prepared by Alec Phillips, an economist for Goldman-Sachs, was sent to clients. It advised that the cuts in H.R. 1 would shrink economic growth by 2 percent of GDP. Predicting that it is unlikely that the full spending cuts will actually be enacted, Phillips estimated that more modest cuts of \$25 billion this year and \$50 billion next year would lower growth by 1 percent of GDP.

Pay Equity Attacks in Minnesota: Several pieces of legislation aimed at repealing pay equity laws have been introduced in Minnesota. However, Minnesota State Senator John Carlson (R-Bemidji), a freshman, has retracted his bill that would have repealed the Local Government Pay Equity Act of 1984, among other things. Carlson has publicly acknowledged that the provision was a mistake and one he will cease pursuing. Another bill, one that would reverse the state's public sector pay equity law has been proposed by state Representative Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa) and is still pending. This is the fourth Republican bill to repeal pay equity in the state proposed just this session, despite a continuing gender wage gap in the state of 77 percent.

Continuing attacks like these make AAUW's persistent mission all the more urgent: We believe wage discrimination hurts women and families and will continue to fight for better enforcement and better

equity laws nationwide. [Click here](#) for resources to help you and your branch join the campaign to end pay discrimination.

Handling of Sexual Assaults on College Campuses Shows Weak Enforcement of Title IX:

Educational institutions in New England and the Department of Education have recently come under scrutiny for their handling of sexual assault cases. To comply with Title IX, schools that receive federal funding must take steps to address gender discrimination on campus, which includes sexual assault. However, investigations and records demonstrate that it is rare for New England colleges and universities to expel or suspend perpetrators of sexual assault, and that schools are rarely reprimanded by the Office of Civil Rights for their inaction. Of the 20 complaints filed against New England institutions since 2005, only two schools were found to be in violation of Title IX, although the schools' sanctions against perpetrators of sexual assault were negligible. The Office of Civil Rights is reviewing how these cases are handled in several states and is expected to release new regulatory guidance this year for appropriate treatment of sexual assault complaints.

AAUW strongly supports Title IX and opposes any efforts that would weaken its effectiveness or undermine its enforcement.

New Fact Sheet Identifies Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives by State: The Center for Women Policy Studies has released a fact sheet on state-level anti-human trafficking legislation in 2010. The fact sheet highlights the laws passed this year in state legislatures across the country aimed at preventing, tracking, and stopping human and sex trafficking into the United States. It is estimated that tens of thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked into the United States each year. Recently enacted measures include interagency task forces and commissions, regulations on International Marriage Brokers, and in California, a law which requires high-earning companies to disclose their efforts to ensure that supply chains are free of trafficked persons. As of this year, 43 state legislatures have passed laws making human trafficking a state felony offense.

College Sports Programs Improve Hiring Practices: The 2010 College Racial and Gender Report Card on College Sport, produced by the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports, showed an overall improvement in hiring practices. College sport racial hiring practices increased its report grade from a C+ to a B, while gender hiring practices maintained a B grade. While hiring practices at the college sport level are improving, there are still large gender disparities among sports staff and coaches. The report gave F grades in several sub categories and highlights areas with acute gender gaps. For example, only 8.3 percent of Division I Athletic Directors are women.

Increased Unemployment Rate for Women: While the overall unemployment rate fell in February, the job market was less kind to women. An analysis of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed that women gained jobs in February, but women's overall unemployment increased. Job recovery continues to show a heavy bias toward men, who filled nine out of every ten recovered jobs in 2010.