

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

President: Sheila Doherty (781) 848-8122
Membership VPs: Patricia McKay (781) 337-3375 and Patricia Laidler (781) 878-6242
Program VP: Carol Sullivan-Hanley (781) 545-9341

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 MAY 2010

CALENDAR

May 11, Tuesday	Annual Dinner, 6:30 PM Common Market Restaurant, Quincy
May 13, Thursday	Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM Home of Hollie Bagley
May 16, Sunday	Book Group Trip to Beacon Hill RSVP Carol Sullivan-Hanley
June 15, Tuesday	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Home of Hollie Bagley
June 24, Thursday	Adventures in Dining Oro Restaurant, Scituate
July 21, Wednesday	Beach Day Home of Sheila Doherty, Green Harbor

BRANCH MEETING

The May banquet will be held on May 11 at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room at the Common Market Restaurant in Quincy. You have a choice of baked stuffed chicken or broiled scrod for the entrée. Also included in the \$27.50 price are a tossed salad, vegetable & potato, rolls, coffee & tea, and dessert. (Taxes and tips are also included in this price.)

I will need people to let me know their preference for the entrée and to send me a check made out to “AAUW Hingham” for \$27.50. *Please note that we must report the meal choices and number of people attending three days before the event. Once we report them, we are obligated to pay for the meals even if someone cancels.*

Please contact me if you have any questions. I hope to see you all there! Susan Mahan
Social Committee poetesssusan1@verizon.net

Directions to Common Market, 97 Willard Street, Quincy:

From the South

Take 93 North heading toward Boston. Get off at exit 8 (Furnace Brook Parkway exit) Follow the “Willard Street” signs up hill and back down hill. At “stop” sign, proceed straight for ½ mile on Willard Street

From the North:

Take 93 South to exit 9 (West Quincy/Bryant Ave exit)

Take 2nd left onto Robertson Street. At set of lights, take a left onto Willard Street. The Common Market will be on the left.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

With the year coming to an end, I reflect on the wonderful mission based programs we have presented this year. From Afghanistan to Twittering to Women in the Arts and Identity Theft we have learned an abundance of information about our world. We have grown in friendship and knowledge over this year and hopefully will during the years to come. Our interest groups will continue to meet over the summer and we will again begin our program on Tuesday, September 14th at our Pot Luck Dinner.

I hope you all have a happy and safe summer, we will be meeting at my beach house, 115 Bay Ave., Green Harbor on Wednesday, July 21st for our annual beach day-all are welcome. Have a nice summer. Sheila Doherty

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

From Deanne Noiseux: Hello, just a note about my work: I am pleased to announce I have three works accepted into a show called Violence Transformed. The 22"x28" monotype with photo transfers will be on digital display in the Doric Hall at the State House in Boston from April 26 to May 7, 2010. The show is at many venues and the art represents visual and written art by artists concerned with domestic violence. I create these pieces because I was horrified when the father of one of my students killed his mother and 9 year old sister. I work to change the violence into something positive and to help raise awareness of how large the problem is and how complicated the solution.

GIRLS GAME NIGHT

There will be a meeting on Thursday, May 13, at Hollie's home, starting at 7:00 PM.

BOOK CLUB

The AAUW reading group will be reading, [Sarah's Long Walk](#), by William and Pul Kendrick. On May 16th, we will meet at Derby Street Shops at 12:00 and travel into Boston where we will visit the Smith School and African-American Meeting House, (two places discussed in the book). Then, we will have lunch and head home. Please contact me with any questions....csulliva@lesley.edu. Carol

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Adventures in Dining's next outing will be to Oro Restaurant on Front Street in Scituate on June 24th. Hope to see you there. RSVP to Pat Laidler.

PAMELA J. LINCOLN AWARD

The Hingham Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is pleased to announce the 2010 recipient of their Pamela J. Lincoln Recognition Award. This scholarship is presented each year to a young woman of outstanding academic and community achievement that is furthering her education.

Ms Katherine McCann is a senior at Weymouth High School. She hopes to pursue a career in nursing, and we feel confident that she will achieve her goal and make an excellent nurse. We wish her well in the future and hope that our scholarship will help in some small way.

**American Association of University Women
Hingham Area Branch
2010-2011 Dues Bill**

It's membership renewal time again!

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

Renewal deadline is June 1, 2010

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	

You can also make a contribution to EF, LAF as well as the Hingham Area Branch's Recognition Award.

Voluntary Contributions:

Educational Foundation	\$_____
Legal Advocacy Fund (minimum suggested donation \$5.00)	\$_____
Recognition Award	\$_____
Total amount enclosed	\$_____

Name: _____

Please check your listing in the Directory and note below any changes or corrections that should be made.

WRITING GROUP

The group has been meeting late in the month so we still don't know when or if we will be meeting in May. We will probably not meet through the summer and hopefully will let you know in good time when our September meeting will occur.

Our members have been busy over the past few months, with Susan Mahan leading the pack with her accomplishments.

On February 18 Susan had five of her poems incorporated into a "Paris Play" where she got to recite her own poetry as part of the story line - what a thrill that must have been.

On March 24 Susan read at the Boston Public Library, a poem that will be on display at Boston City Hall until July. So if you get a chance go find her poem there.

Susan has published a new chapbook of her poems entitled *World View*. Ask her about acquiring a copy.

Susan also had her poem *Cleaning Up* published in the latest issue of the South Boston Literary Gazette.

Beatrice Kelly had two poems, *Hope* and *Seventeen Times Three*, published in the SBLG.

I hope everyone got to read Gwen Sayian's most recent AAUW article in the *Hingham Journal*. As usual her humor is refreshing.

Beatrice Kelly

PUBLIC POLICY

Nebraska Passes Legislation Restricting Abortion: Gov. Dave Heineman (R-NE) signed two bills into law restricting women's access to abortion in Nebraska. The first measure requires all women seeking an abortion to pass a mental health screening, and the second outlaws abortion after 20 weeks. Under the second law, abortion after 20 weeks will only be permissible to "avert death or...serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function," based on the assumption that a fetus can feel pain after 20 weeks gestation. According to the Beatrice Daily Sun, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists sees "no legitimate evidence that fetuses can experience pain." Many believe these laws, as well as those coming from Kansas, are geared to deter the practice of Nebraskan resident and abortion provider, Dr. LeRoy Carhart. Dr. Carhart has faced intensified scrutiny since the May 2009 murder of his colleague and friend, Dr. George Tiller.

Maternal Mortality Rates Improving: New research finds the global maternal mortality rate has dropped 40 percent since 1980, showing an overall improvement of health, wealth, and status of women worldwide. The study, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, tracked the international decline through 2008 and credits India, China, Brazil, and Egypt with the largest advancements. Despite positive changes in prenatal care, midwives, income, education, and family size, rising rates of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria have put the issue back on the global agenda.

Also of note, a panel discussion on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW: adopted by the UN in 1979, yet to be ratified by the United States), the most comprehensive human rights treaty for women, will be held April 29 in New York City.

More Schools Footing the Bill for Athletic Programs: As budgets grow tighter, institutionally subsidized sports programs are becoming increasingly prominent at colleges and universities across the country. Data collected by USA Today shows that a majority of sports programs are receiving increased funding in the form of subsidies, rather than through earned funds, which would include tickets sales and other revenues from sporting events. Many are concerned that in a time of financial shortcomings, the increased role of schools in the funding of athletic programs may force unfair cuts in other programs.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the statute prohibiting sex discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funds, protects against discrimination in college and high school athletics. AAUW supports Title IX and will monitor how schools may be subsidizing male athletic teams in comparison to female athletic teams.

Sally Ride Endorses President's NASA Plan: Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, publicly endorsed the president's new space initiative this week, calling the decision to move NASA's goals in a different direction "a strategy for human exploration that will excite and energize the next generation." According to the White House,

the initiatives are designed to refocus NASA on developing new technology that will enhance future opportunities in space.

Working Mother Announces Survey Results: Working Mother announced the winners of their Working Mother Best Companies for Hourly Workers survey. The 500-question survey measured companies on their benefits, job training and development, advancement programs, child care, flexibility programs and paid time off. The 2010 winning companies include CCLC, McDonald's USA, Marriot International, Sodexo, the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinic and UNM Hospitals.

Drop in US Birth Rate Tied to Recession: Recently released studies by Pew Research and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention suggest a link between the declining U.S. birth rate and the recession. The birth rate dropped by two percent from 2007 to 2008, marking the first drop since 2000. The largest decreases were seen in Arizona and Mississippi, which are states that have suffered the greatest yearly declines per capita. Interestingly, North Dakota, a state not detrimentally affected by the recession, saw an increase in birth rates in 2008. The research suggests that the lack of economic security has encouraged many women to delay having children.

Social Security & Medicare Financial Report Delayed: The annual report regarding the financial status of Social Security and Medicare has been delayed three months and will now be released on June 30th. The delay comes as a result of the newly passed health care bill, which is expected to have positive impacts on the anticipated life span of both social programs. As a result, the Obama administration decided to delay the release so that the full effects of the new health care bill could be accurately reflected within the report.

Barbie Goes Tech: A recent survey on Barbie.com gave site visitors the chance to choose Barbie's next career. According to Mattel Inc., Barbie's maker, while the majority of young girls voted for an anchorwoman, adult voters (lead by many women bloggers) flooded the website making computer scientist the winning career. After learning about the survey, many computer scientists launched internet campaigns to encourage others to vote for a career in which women made up only 18 percent of degree earners in 2008. Female computer scientists are hoping that the new tech-oriented Barbie will spark an interest in computers among young girls. AAUW's Tech Savvy (2000), Women at Work (2003), and Why So Few? (2010) research reports have documented the troubling shortage of girls and women preparing to work in science, engineering, technology, and math. In order to close this gap, AAUW supports efforts that train teachers to encourage girls and other underrepresented groups to pursue careers in these fields.

Justice Steven to Retire: Justice John Paul Stevens, the most senior member of the U.S. Supreme Court, officially announced his retirement, continuing the debate that had already begun over who his replacement will be. As Stevens weighed his decision to end his 35 years on the Court, many turned their focus to how a summer Senate confirmation battle will affect November midterm elections. One of four liberals on the Court, Stevens will likely be replaced by someone with a similar ideology, leaving the makeup of the Court unchanged. However, with partisan anger over the health care bill still lingering, a highly polarized confirmation battle is expected.

USCCR Releases Title IX Report: The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) recently released Title IX Athletics: Accommodating Interests & Abilities. From its research looking into the effectiveness of the "three-prong" test to measure Title IX compliance, the USCCR made recommendations that include reliance on a problematic online model survey to measure student interest. Many critics, including AAUW, argue that the Commission's biased intentions helped to shape its research and ultimate conclusion.

Remembering Wilma Mankiller: Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation in modern times, passed away at the age of 64 after a difficult battle with cancer. Well known for her success at improving the social and economic status of the Cherokee Nation, Ms. Mankiller was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998 from President Bill Clinton. As one of the first women elected to a top position within a Native American community, Ms. Mankiller inspired women around the country to strive for leadership roles in their tribes and communities.

Federal Government Not Hiring As Many Women: According to a new report by Federally Employed Women, the number of women in top positions within the federal workforce is much lower than that of men. While that number nearly doubled between 1992 and 2003, there has been relatively no change since 2006. The report cites a

lack of training and cross-training as major reasons for the lack of women in top positions, and that training funds are typically cut under budget restraints. Thus, in today's economic climate, women are provided fewer opportunities to advance to top federal positions.

\$250 Million to Failed Abstinence-Only Programs: Among the negotiated details of the new health care law, both Congress and the president supported Sen. Orrin Hatch's (R-UT) \$250 million five-year renewal of controversial Title V abstinence-only programs. While abstinence-only programming was first introduced during the Clinton administration's 1996 welfare reform, 22 states have since refused funding following reports of failed changes to teenage pregnancy rates and STI prevention. In a move to counter protests over the abstinence-only initiative, a \$375 million grant from President Obama's Personal Responsibility Program will be instated to promote comprehensive sex education and teen pregnancy prevention.

Wage Gap in Academic Medicine: Women in academic medicine earn significantly less than their male counterparts, according to a study released in April's Academic Medicine. Researchers sampled at random 3,000 life science employees at the top 50 academic medical centers funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) looking to explain the gender wage gap. The study found that over a 30 year period, full-time female faculty members made almost \$215,000 less than men of equal standing, and nearly \$700,000 less over a full career. Professors Eric Campbell, PhD, and Catherine DesRoches, DrPh, have linked their work on the study with the need for a systematic change in the field.

College Health Plans Overcharging Students: Ten college-sponsored insurers have been subpoenaed by the New York attorney general's office for asking students for more money in premiums than they provide in benefits. After a 17-month investigation, NY Attorney General Andrew Cuomo found the companies and schools guilty of requiring plans that fail to meet New York's 65 percent college program loss ratio. Many plans also fail to provide coverage for situations commonly found in the age bracket, like failed suicide attempts and injuries while intoxicated. Under new national health care policies beginning this September, people under 26 years old have the option of staying on their parents' plans and college plans will have a required loss ratio of 85%.

Recession Tied to Drop in Teen Birthrate: After two consecutive years on the rise, the rate at which young women, ages 15-19, give birth decreased by 2 percent in 2008. For every 1,000 young women within that age group, there were only 41.5 births. The largest decrease, 4 percent, was among 18-19 year old women; the same group that saw the largest increase between 2005 and 2007. The drop in teenage birthrates is part of an overall decrease in births for American women, which is shown to be a result of the current economic recession. Recent findings by the Pew Research Center suggest the lack of economic security has encouraged many women to delay having children.

AAUW Research Stirs Dialogue: AAUW's new research report, Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, has ignited a nationwide conversation. Since its release last week, the report providing in-depth profiles on why there are so few women in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, and TIME magazine.

White House Forum on Workplace Flexibility: With women now comprising half of the American workforce, new polling data show support for policies focusing on work-life balance. On Wednesday, AAUW attended the White House Forum on Workplace Flexibility, where the president and First Lady Michelle Obama lead discussions on tactics for increasing employee workplace flexibility on a day-to-day basis.

More Women Faculty at Harvard University: Harvard University has seen significant increases in the number of women faculty following the resignation of University President Lawrence H. Summers in 2006. Summers, who resigned after inciting fury over his remarks about the lack of women's ability in math and science, was replaced by the first women president, Drew Gilpin Faust. Today, over a quarter of the university's faculty is women and the schools of education, engineering, and law are all headed by women. The university also offers child care and family programs allowing faculty to balance the responsibilities of work and family. However, with only one tenured female math professor and only two female math graduate students this year, it is clear the imbalance of women and men in these fields is still very much a reality.

Scott Roeder Sentenced to Life in Prison: Scott Roeder, the man convicted of murdering Dr. George Tiller in May of 2009, was sentenced yesterday to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 50 years. In a statement

released yesterday, the Tiller family responded to the sentencing saying, "We only can hope that this sentence will serve as a deterrent to those who have conspired and continue to conspire to murder abortion providers."

Atlanta Billboards Ignite Controversy: In Atlanta, 80 billboards in predominantly black neighborhoods, funded by the anti-abortion website toomanyaborted.com, proclaim abortion rates among the African American community as a tactic of genocide and call black children "an endangered species." The group cites statistics showing that black women are 4-5 times more likely than white women to have an abortion, but neglects to consider the rates of unintended pregnancies between the two communities. According to Carol J. Rowland Hogue, professor of epidemiology at Emory University near Atlanta, "if black women had the same unintended pregnancy rate as white women have--but maintained the same likelihood of aborting an unintended pregnancy as they currently have--their abortion rate would decline 64 percent." If successful in Atlanta, the group plans to take their campaign nationwide.

AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services. This position stems from AAUW's 2009-2011 Public Policy Program, which advocates, "choice in the determination of one's reproductive life...increased access to health care and family planning services including expansion of patients' rights."

Population Control Linked with Gender Subordination : Reports issued last year suggest a controversial connection between women's fertility, population control, and carbon emissions reduction strategies. One report claims a \$7 family planning investment could prevent one ton of CO2 emissions over a 40 year period, while a second report makes the bold claim that parents accept responsibility for future carbon emissions by choosing to have children, thus increasing the population. With population control policies historically linked to the subordination of women's rights through forced abortions and sterilizations, most advocates of reproductive rights are unwilling to use the facts and findings of these reports as evidence for their arguments.

Court Upholds Ban on Unlimited Donations: a three-judge panel for the U.S. District Court in Washington, DC, denied the Republican National Committee's (RNC) request to overturn a ban on unlimited campaign contributions. The RNC filed suit claiming such limitations violate the First Amendment and the right to free speech. The Court disagreed, stating that the ban applied only to federal candidates and party committees, in no way hindering other groups' political discourse. The RNC is expected to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which recently delivered the landmark decision in Citizens United v. FEC, lifting the ban on limited and direct corporate spending in elections.

Gender Parity Not a Priority in Corporate World: three women filed suit against Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, claiming gender-based discriminatory practices in partnership opportunities. A recent survey conducted by Bain & Company finds that gender parity is not a top concern for most corporations. The survey contends that only one in four workers believe their company leaders consider gender parity an important issue and one in five say their companies have actually taken initiatives to address such inequality.

Title IX Victory in Hawaii: A federal judge in Hawaii has ruled that the Hawaii Department of Education and Maui County are both in violation of Title IX, a law requiring equal athletic opportunities for girls and boys. A lawsuit was filed by the parents of three Baldwin High School softball players, claiming the team was forced to play on an unsafe, inconvenient, and irregular-sized field, while the baseball team plays at a 1,500 seat stadium. Federal Judge David Ezra said that the inequity was clear and that the softball facilities failed in comparison to baseball facilities. The state Department of Education has announced plans to build a new softball stadium set to be completed in 2012.

Goldman VP Sues for Discrimination: Former Vice President of Goldman Sachs University, Charlotte Hanna, is suing the company, claiming discriminatory practices following the birth of her two children. Hanna alleges that Goldman Sachs demoted her after she had her first child in 2005. Following the birth of her second child in 2009, she was informed that her position was no longer available at the company, only one week before her scheduled return from maternity leave. According to Hanna, 75 percent of people who had been terminated along with her had recently taken maternity leave.

Colorado Ballot Initiative to Restrict Abortion: Last week, the Colorado-based anti-abortion group, Personhood USA, submitted the required signatures to place a proposal on the ballot to amend Colorado's constitution,

extending legal rights to a fetus. Before the initiative will be placed on the ballot, the state must verify 15,700 of the 46,000 collected signatures. Parenthood USA expressed confidence in their signatures and switched its focus to pushing this proposal in 40 other states, including Mississippi, Montana, California, Florida and Missouri.

Remembering Stewart Udall: Former U.S. Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, who served under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, passed away last week at the age of ninety. On Saturday, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) released a statement remembering Udall as one of the 20th century's most influential conservationists who dedicated his time advocating for the United States' environment and wildlife. Udall was the father and the uncle of Senators Tom Udall (D-NM) and Mark Udall (D-CO), respectively.

Wisconsin Court to Hear Paid Sick Days Case: The Wisconsin Supreme Court has accepted a case centered on a Milwaukee paid sick day ordinance, passed by 70 percent of voters in 2008, that provides paid sick days for private sector employees. After the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce filed suit against the ordinance, a county circuit judge ruled it invalid claiming domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault, are not included in the "traditional" definition of a sick day. The Wisconsin Supreme Court will now rule on whether voters were well-informed enough on the aspects and scope of the ordinance when it was passed. The Court has yet to set a date to hear the case.

Pay Inequity for Unmarried Americans: Women's Voices. Women Vote and Lake Research Partners recently released 50 Years of Unmarried America: The Status and Importance of Unmarried America, a comprehensive report that focuses specifically on unmarried women. According to the report, the number of unmarried women has nearly tripled in the last 50 years, yet these women continue to make only 56 cents to the dollar in comparison to a married man. Additionally, findings show that 79 percent of women in poverty are unmarried, demonstrating the economic need for pay equity between women and men.

CDC To Combat Teen Violence: According to a recent national survey, almost one in ten high school students report being hurt or hit by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year. In an effort to combat the growing public health issue of teen dating violence, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has partnered with Liz Clairborne, Inc. to develop an hour-long interactive web-based training for those working with teens. Entitled "Dating Matters: Understanding Teen Violence Prevention," the course is geared towards educators and youth organizations and provides tips for effectively discussing healthy relationships as well as the warning signs of dating violence with teens.

Best Countries for Women Announced: In honor of International Women's Day, Professor Nancy Folbre of University of Massachusetts, Amherst reviewed lists of "The World's Best Countries for Women." Based on the criteria, the United States ranked 13th on the Human Development Index, 18th and 19th on the Gender Empowerment Measure and Gender-Related Development Index, 31st by the World Economic Forum and a 65/80 by Social Watch. While none of these scores measure all aspects of life, Norway, Sweden and Australia were some of the highest ranking countries for women.