

# 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      NOVEMBER 2010

### CALENDAR

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|------------------------|--|
| November 3, Wednesday  | Adventures in Dining, 7:00 PM<br>Alma Nove at the Hingham Shipyard<br>RSVP Liz Cusick <a href="mailto:Eagle27982@aol.com">Eagle27982@aol.com</a>   |
| November 6, Saturday   | AAUW/Babson College Conference<br>Registration 7:30-8:30 AM<br>Conference 8:30 AM-5:00 PM<br>"Education, Employment, Empowerment:<br>The Global Prospects for Women" (See the BayStater) |
| November 9, Tuesday    | Branch Meeting, 7:00 PM<br>"Seventy, the New Fifty: Women in Transition"<br>Allerton House, Hingham  |
| November 11, Thursday  | Declutter Bugs, 4:30 PM<br>Panera Bread, Derby Shoppes, Hingham  |
| November 17, Wednesday | Book Group, 7:00 PM<br><u>Finding Nouf</u> by Zoe Ferraris<br>Home of Pat Laidler  |
| November 18, Thursday  | Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM<br>Home of Sharon Lemoff   |
| November 18, Thursday  | Writers' Group, 7:30 PM<br>Brewed Awakening, Hingham   |
| December 5, Sunday     | Holiday Brunch, 11:00 AM<br>Raffael's, Hull<br>RSVP: Susan Mahan <a href="mailto:Poetesssusan@verizon.net">Poetesssusan@verizon.net</a>  |

### BRANCH MEETING

The Hingham Area Branch will present the program, "Seventy, the New Fifty: Women in Transition," on November 9 at 7:00 PM at the Allerton House, 15 Conditto Road, Hingham. Lynne O'Brien, a certified counselor and AAUW member, will be the guest speaker. The meeting is free and open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

Let's face it. Women are looking younger and acting younger than their mother's generation did at the same age. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century 35 was the average life expectancy. Fifty was a ripe old age. Life expectancy rose rapidly in the twentieth century due to improvements in public health, nutrition and medicine. It's likely that life expectancy of the most developed countries will slowly advance and then reach a peak in the range of the mid-80s in age. Women almost always have higher life expectancies than men.

What are the consequences for women living longer lives? How does living longer affect us personally and how does a higher life expectancy affect the society we live in? What must change for communities to cope with people living longer?

Come to the program on Tuesday, November 9 at Allerton House in Hingham at 7:30 PM to hear our own Lynne O'Brien discuss in a captivating yet humorous approach these and other issues pertaining to increased life expectancy. After all, 70 is the new 50!

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

With the year coming to an end, have you thought about giving a gift to the AAUW Funds? Each year, AAUW Funds makes a difference in the lives of women from around the world. AAUW International Fellowships are awarded for full time study or research to women, who are not US Citizens. We will meet some of them at the Conference at Babson College on Saturday, November 6th. I will be looking forward to seeing you that day; if you need to car pool please let me know.

In November our Hingham Area Member, Lynne O'Brien will be lending us her expertise in life experiences. She will be talking about "Seventy, the New Fifty: Women in Transition". I hope to see you at the Allerton House in Hingham on Tuesday, November 9th.

Our Holiday Social this year will be held on Sunday, December 5th at Raphael's in Hull, starting at 11:00 AM. We will be having brunch while "over looking" the picturesque Atlantic Ocean. Join us for a lovely social and dining pre-holiday experience. Please RSVP to Susan Mahan.

Sheila Doherty

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### **The Center for Women's Leadership at Babson College and AAUW Massachusetts proudly present:**

**Education, Employment, Empowerment: The Global Prospects for Women:** A day of connecting, collaborating and empowering women:

**Saturday, November 6, 2010** 8:30 AM - 5 PM  
Babson Executive Conference Center

**Keynote Speaker:** Edie Hunt, Global Head of Talent Management, Goldman Sachs

As the Head of Global Talent Management, Edie Hunt has demonstrated her commitment to women's education, employment, and empowerment through her leadership at Goldman Sachs, as well as her pioneering work as the founding director of Forte Foundation. Goldman Sachs is also well known and highly regarded for its recent initiatives, 10,000 Women and 10,000 Small Businesses.

## **Program and Presenters**

The day will focus on the challenges and opportunities for women and girls as they pursue learning, join the workforce, and add their voices to the critical discussions and decisions affecting their lives. The morning sessions will take a global view, while the afternoon sessions will focus more specifically on the U.S. and Massachusetts. In addition to the two co-host organizations, presenters will include:

The Women's Global Banking Alliance  
Pax World Investments  
IBM  
CARE USA  
Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge

The Center for Women and Enterprise  
Eastern Bank  
Families United for Educational Leadership  
Empower Peace Women 2 Women  
and many others

**For more information and to register for this special event, visit**  
<http://www3.babson.edu/CWL/events/AAUW-CWL-conference.cfm>

## **PAMELA J. LINCOLN RECOGNITION AWARD**

Every year the Hingham Branch of AAUW presents a \$200.00 recognition award to a student. The student can be a junior or senior in high school, or a mature student seeking to further her education. All candidates **MUST** be nominated by a current member of the Hingham Branch of AAUW. March 1 is the deadline for accepting applications. It is never too early to start the process, so if you know of a deserving female student please consider nominating her. Applications are available from Beatrice Kelly, (781) 925-3310 or [johnjackkelly@yahoo.com](mailto:johnjackkelly@yahoo.com).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We have a new member! She is Alicia Blaisdell-Bannon. Please add Alicia to your directory. Remember, all members, until February 2011 you have a chance to win a free membership when you bring a guest who becomes a member. Your name will be entered into a national lottery. Spread the word AAUW -about women for women all the time. "AAUW mission -advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research"--

## **HOLIDAY SOCIAL**

This year's holiday social will be held at 11 AM on Sunday, December 5, 2010, at Raffaels (on Nantasket Beach), 45 Hull Shore Drive, Hull. The cost is \$26. (It would be a help if people bring exact change that day.)

Please RSVP to Social Committee member Susan Mahan at [poetesssusan1@verizon.net](mailto:poetesssusan1@verizon.net) or 781-335-6912. I hope to see you all there!

## **ADVENTURES IN DINING**

The Adventures in Dining group will be going to Alma Nove in the Hingham Shipyard on Wednesday, November 3. We will meet at the restaurant at 7 PM. All are welcome to attend, but please RSVP to Liz Cusack, [Eagle27982@aol.com](mailto:Eagle27982@aol.com) or 781-331-5426, ASAP and at the latest by November 1 so that we can adjust the reservation accordingly.

## WRITING GROUP

The next meeting of the Writing Group will take place at 7.30 PM on Thursday, November 18th at Brewed Awakening in Hingham

## PUBLIC POLICY

**School Lunch Subsidies Render Catholic Schools Subject to Title IX:** A federal court in Pennsylvania recently ruled that all schools operated by the Catholic Diocese of Greensburg are subject to Title IX, the law which prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions which receive federal funding. Although the Title IX complaint occurred at a school which does not receive federal funding, the court ruled that because the Diocese runs several schools, one of which does accept subsidies under the National School Lunch Program, all the schools are subject to Title IX. This decision should remind all schools that receive any federal funding that their students are protected under Title IX.

**Marriage “Gap” Narrows:** A report by the Pew Research Center reveals that college educated white women are now just as likely as those without higher education to get married, ending the phenomenon frequently called a “marriage penalty” for women with college educations. The results, which use data from 2008, also show that the typical age of marriage for college educated women as well as those without college educations is 28 and that 84 percent of women are married before age 40. Although the findings indicate that college-educated women are now more likely to marry and to do so earlier than in the past, the narrowing marriage gap appears to be primarily due to the diminishing rate at which women without college educations are marrying.

**Judge Orders Pentagon to Halt Enforcement of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”;** Administration to Appeal : a federal judge ordered the military to halt enforcement of the policy known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” which prevents openly gay and lesbian individuals from serving in the United States’ military. District Judge Virginia A. Phillips of California declared the policy unconstitutional and mandated an end to enforcement despite the Obama administration’s warning that such an action might impair military readiness during a time of war. This ruling comes just weeks before Congress again considers a legislative repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, the path that some Administration officials, including Defense Secretary Robert Gibbs, prefer. The Justice Department requested a stay of Judge Phillips’ ruling, preparing the groundwork for an appeal of the decision.

**Social Security Benefits to Remain Flat for 2011:** The Social Security Administration announced there will be no automatic cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits for the second year in a row. Automatic increases require that the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a measure of inflation, show an increase over the previous year; however, the Bureau of Labor Statistics determined that the CPI has not increased since 2008, the last year there was a cost-of-living adjustment. Last year was the first since automatic increases began that the CPI fell. On average, retirees receive payments of approximately \$1,200 each month.

**Poll Shows Overwhelming Public Support for Full Insurance Coverage of Birth Control:** A poll released by Hart Research Associates reveals that 71 percent of American voters believe insurers should be required to fully cover prescription birth control. Commissioned by the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, the survey also illustrates the seriousness of the issue, citing that 55 percent of young adult women faced times when consistent use of birth control was too expensive. These findings are particularly significant, coming when the Institute of Medicine is forming recommendations for which preventive health services insurers should be required to fully cover, a part of health care reform.

**U.S. Makes Headway in Global Gender Gap Report:** The United States rose significantly in the World Economic Forum's 2010 Global Gender Gap Report rankings from 31st last year to 19th this year, the first time the United States has been in the top 20 since the report began five years ago. The report, which collects information pertaining to economic, educational, and political opportunities as well as health and survival rates for women in 114 countries, shows that gender gaps have narrowed in 86 percent of the countries and increased in 14 percent. The United States' progress was in large part due to high literacy rates among women and the high proportion of women in primary, secondary, and post-secondary education. As in past years, **Nordic countries lead the world in closing gender gaps, with Iceland at the top of the list for the second year in a row.** Several Middle-Eastern nations have consistently been lowest on the list. AAUW is committed to closing gender gaps in the United States and worldwide and has affirmed its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

**Nearly \$200 Million Spent on Political Ads:** Almost \$200 million has been spent on campaign ads, an increase of 75 percent over political ad spending in the same period in 2008. While Democratic candidates have spent more than Republicans, conservative interest groups such as American Crossroads have outspent left-leaning ones by a factor of 9-to-1. This surge in spending comes in the first election cycle since the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010), which removed limits on corporate campaign financing. This ruling, combined with the tax code that permits these groups to keep their donor list secret, has made many, particularly Democrats, uncomfortable with the influx of political ad spending.

**Huge Pay Gap for Female Chiefs of New York City Nonprofits:** A recent analysis of salary data reveals that female heads of New York City nonprofits earn significantly less than their male counterparts at similar institutions. The study, conducted by GuideStar, an agency that tracks salary data listed on IRS forms, found that although women chiefs experience a wage gap in nonprofits of varying sizes, the gap widens considerably as nonprofits' budgets get larger. Male chief executives of New York nonprofits with budgets over \$5 million earned, on average, \$621,000 while women in these positions averaged only \$401,000, over 35 percent less. The study did find, however, that female executives earned substantially higher bonuses than their male peers in 2008, which may indicate some pushback against gender-based wage discrimination.

**Senate Races Could Shift Women's Party Lines:** Although the total number of women serving in the U.S. Senate may change in the upcoming election, it is likely that more of the women senators will be found on the Republican side of the aisle. Of the five strong female challengers for Senate seats, four are Republican, while three of the four female incumbents in close races are Democrats. In the two-woman race in California, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) is in a fierce competition against former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina (R). Other incumbent women are faring better, such as current senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), who holds a substantial lead against Eric Wargotz (R-MD).

**Supreme Court Opens Term with Three Women:** an historic new term for the Supreme Court where, for the first time, there are three women justices on the bench at the same time. Studies have shown that there is no real difference between the way female and male justices decide cases in 12 of 13 areas of law; the only exception is cases involving sex-based employment discrimination. In the case of *Lilly Ledbetter*, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg read her dissent from the bench and called on Congress to change the law, which it subsequently did thanks to urging from AAUW.

**Gender Pay Gap Leads to Retirement Shortfall:** Based on numbers released in the GAO report on the pay gap in management positions, the negative effects of the pay gap continue into retirement. An article for SmartMoney.com shows that differences in pay now can lead to hundreds of thousands of dollars' difference in retirement savings. This shortfall can be attributed to the fact that women earn less income to save, receive lower Social Security payments, and work fewer years despite living longer than men. The

average difference in the retirement income between women and men is \$8000, two thirds of which is due to occupational segregation and the pay gap.

**Bullying Blamed in College Student's Suicide:** Despite increased efforts on campuses to promote tolerance, gay and lesbian students are still vulnerable to torment and harassment. Discussions about how best to serve LBGTQ students intensified after Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi committed suicide after being harassed by his roommate. A report released after Clementi's death found that about one quarter of gay and lesbian staff, faculty, and students in the U.S. said they had experienced harassment, and 83 percent said it was based on sexual identity. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan released a statement following the recent deaths calling on "all people of conscience... to stand up and speak out against intolerance in all its forms."

**Obama Seeks to Boost College Grads :** AAUW's Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz was invited to participate in the White House community college summit where President Barack Obama called on colleges to produce an additional 5 million graduates by 2020. Community colleges saw a 17 percent enrollment surge between 2007 and 2009. The summit, led by Dr. Jill Biden, a community college professor herself, highlighted new partnerships between community colleges and major corporations. It also featured commitments from private institutions including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which announced the launch of a \$35 million, five-year competitive grant program to boost graduation rates. President Obama also held a conference call with student journalists across the nation on his administration's commitment to education

**EEOC Sues Fox News for Discrimination:** The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a lawsuit against Fox News for retaliation against a reporter who filed a complaint of gender and age discrimination. The correspondent, Catherine Herridge, complained to Fox management in 2007 that she was earning disparate pay and was overlooked for promotion. The following year, Fox requested Herridge sign a contract indicating she would not pursue any future complaints of discrimination and referenced her previously doing so. Herridge refused to sign and Fox would not negotiate, leaving her an "at-will" employee without a contract. A representative for Fox News claims, "The EEOC's suspiciously timed press release is nothing more than a partisan statement about a politically motivated lawsuit."

**National Domestic Violence Awareness Month :** President Obama proclaimed October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In a statement he said, "Domestic violence remains a devastating public health crisis when one in four women will be physically or sexually assaulted by a partner at some point in her lifetime." Vice President Joe Biden also recently opened his home to acknowledge the 16th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, citing the need to adjust methods and messages to address a new generation. "Our course of action needs to adapt," said the vice president, "to change with the times if we are here to keep a promise we have made to our daughters and granddaughters: to end domestic violence and sexual abuse. Not to reduce it. To end it."

**Nobel Prize to In Vitro-Fertilization Pioneer:** Dr. Robert Edwards was awarded the Nobel Prize this week for his work with in vitro fertilization. His pioneering effort in the late 1970's led to later advances in embryonic stem cell research and cloning. The motivation of Dr. Edwards and his partner, gynecologist Patrick Steptoe, was primarily to help infertile couples. The treatment has led to a multitude of political hot topics including same sex parenting, genetic manipulation, and redefining reproductive liberty.

**U.N. Human Rights Council Resolution Against Gender Discrimination:** The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution led by Colombia and Mexico to address the elimination of discrimination against women. A working group comprised of five independent experts from different regions of the world will work with governments and civil society to eliminate laws and practices that discriminate against women; and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. The United States co-sponsored this resolution along with 70 other countries.

**Congressional Hearing on Gender Pay Gap:** The Joint Economic Committee held a hearing on the recent Government Accountability Office report on wage differences between female and male managers. The study found that female managers earned just 81 cents to every dollar earned by male managers in 2007, increasing a mere 2 cents since 2000. Even more shocking are statistics that even though women account for 40 percent of managers in the U.S., working mothers with children under age 18 account for only 14 percent of all managers.

The wage gap continues to be a major issue in all sectors. While female non-profit CEO's are closing the wage gap, a new study finds that women in other top leadership positions have actually fallen behind their male counterparts. Another recent study by the United States Conference of Mayors found that half of the projected "green" jobs created by stimulus programs will be in heavily male-dominated areas such as engineering, consulting, manufacturing, construction and forestry.

**Census Statistics Foreshadow Redistricting:** A new estimate of upcoming congressional redistricting reveals Florida gaining and New York losing two House seats, respectively. Earlier projections found that both Texas and Ohio are expected to pick up seats as well. Despite relative accuracy, there are no guarantees until the Census Bureau's scheduled announcement in late December of the final population totals for all states. Once the data is released reapportionment debates will begin across the country at the state level, resulting in a new electoral map for the 2012 elections, and impacting the makeup of federal and state legislatures for the next decade.

**Justice Scalia: Gender Discrimination Not Unconstitutional:** Associate Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia illustrated the impact judicial nominations have on women's rights and opportunities. In recent a speech to the U.C. Hastings College of Law, Justice Scalia asserted his belief that the 14th amendment to the Constitution does not prohibit gender discrimination because, when ratified in 1868, it was intended to prevent racial discrimination only. This narrow interpretation of the Constitution is not merely academic; with a voice on our nation's highest court, Justice Scalia can and has contributed to numerous anti-women's rights opinions.

**First Perks of Health Care Law Kick In:** Some of the most popular provisions in the six-month-old health care law took effect Thursday. Some of the provisions that will specifically support women focus on children's health, lifetime caps, and free preventative care. For some Americans it may take longer to see the effects of the changes as the provisions only immediately impact plans issued or renewed after September 23rd.

**President Offers Support to DREAM Act :** President Barack Obama announced support for the DREAM Act, legislation that would allow undocumented students – raised in the U.S. and graduated from American high schools – to go to college, contribute to the nation's economy, and start on the pathway to citizenship. The legislation was to have been considered as part of the Department of Defense authorization bill, which has stalled in the Senate. Opponents have called the measure amnesty for some 2.1 million undocumented immigrants.

**New Education Programs Launched:** President Obama announced the creation of a new non-profit organization, "Change the Equation," headed by CEOs of technology-based corporations. The organization focuses on promoting science education by exposing more students to robotics, improving teacher training and education, and increasing the number of students taking and succeeding in Advanced Placement (AP) tests in STEM subjects. AAUW's latest research report, Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, shows that fewer girls than boys take AP exams in STEM-related subjects and girls who take STEM AP exams earn lower scores than boys earn on average, putting them at an early disadvantage in the field.

Tangentially, the National Education Association Foundation launched a new program called "Challenge to Innovate" (C2i) which enlists teachers to think creatively and implement innovative classroom ideas. The

grant program will be conducted in three phases, encouraging teachers to identify classroom challenges and providing innovative solutions.

**Study Released on Women and Poverty:** Women and children faced the highest rates of poverty in 15 years in 2009, according to a study released this month by the National Women's Law Center. On top of a universal increase in poverty for women, men and children, the wage gap between men and women remained unchanged. Women continued to make just 77 cents on every dollar men earned. Using data from the 2009 Census, the report also revealed that the poverty problem for women is also cross-cutting. Women from all ethnic and racial backgrounds faced worse poverty than their white male counterparts. The poverty rate for single mothers was 38.5 percent.

**California Accused of Charging for Public Education:** The American Civil Liberties Union launched a suit against Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA) and the state of California this month. The suit follows the release of an ACLU report called 'Pay-to-Learn' which revealed that 40 schools in the state charge fees for required academic expenses like textbooks and Advance Placement tests. The ACLU alleges this violates the principle of free education which has been protected by the state's Supreme Court in the past and permeates the nation.

Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, also issued a statement this month attacking Schwarzenegger's reluctance to spend federal education money allocated to the state. The governor's office was quick to confirm he would sign legislation to allow that \$1.2 billion to be spent.

**Former Chilean President to Head Up U.N. Gender Equality Agency:** United Nations Secretary Ban Ki-Moon announced that former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet will lead the newly created U.N. Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The agency will begin work next year and will reflect the 1995 declaration to achieve women's equality by ending discrimination and closing the gender gap in 12 key areas.

**U.S. Competitive Status Continues to Decline:** According to a report written by the "Gathering Storm" committee, the U.S. has continued to weaken in its ability to remain competitive in the global economy over the past five years. The report cites a strong need to further invest in K-12 education, principally in math and science, and increase the federal budget for scientific research. The America COMPETES Act, passed in 2007, has aimed to address these issues by promoting STEM education, fostering innovation, and creating jobs, and is set to expire this year unless renewed.