

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

President: Sheila Doherty (781) 848-8122
Membership VPs: Patricia McKay (781) 337-3375 and Patricia Laidler (781) 878-6242
Program VPs: Diane Morash (781) 749-749-8756 and Jane Moore (781) 659-9443

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 OCTOBER 2008

CALENDAR

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| October 9, Thursday | DeClutterers, 4:30 PM
Panera's Bread, Derby Street Shoppes, Hingham
All are welcome |
| October 9, Thursday | Adventures in Dining, 6:30 PM
Shabu, Hancock St., Quincy
RSVP to Hollie Bagley by October 5th |
| October 14, Tuesday | Branch Meeting, 7:00 PM
Hingham Public Library
"Negotiating Your Worth" |
| October 21, Tuesday | Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM
Home of Chrisanne Gregoire |
| October 25, Saturday | AAUW-Massachusetts South Sectional Meeting
Holiday Inn, Taunton
See "Bay Stater" for more information |
| October 26, Sunday | Orientation Tea, 2:00 PM
Home of Cathy Barnes |
| October 28, Tuesday | Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Home of Kathy Gabriel |
| November 11, Tuesday | Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM
Home of Hollie Bagley |
| November 15, Saturday | AAUW-Massachusetts North Sectional Meeting
Brooksby Village, Peabody |
| November 18, Tuesday | Branch Meeting, 7:00 PM
Hingham High School
"Readiness Project/Revamping Education in Massachusetts" |

BRANCH MEETING

If you've ever felt yourself to be undervalued, under paid, or under appreciated, you should attend our next branch meeting and hear Pam Pollock's talk on "Negotiating Your Worth."

Pam Pollock is the Regional Resource Consultant for the 18 associations that make up the YWCA's New England Region and coordinates the 10 YWCAs in Massachusetts. Previously she was Southeast Regional Director for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Associate Executive Director of the YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts. Pam facilitates training programs in Racial Justice, Financial Literacy, and Women's Economic Empowerment, Advocacy and Public Policy, as well as Board Development and Strategic Planning sessions for the YWCA and other nonprofit organizations in New England.

On Tuesday evening October 14, at 7:00 PM, Pam will be speaking at the Hingham Public Library on behalf of the Hingham Area Branch of AAUW. She will speak about advocating for one's worth in the workplace. She will discuss strategies of negotiation as they pertain to communication style, salary requirements and other important workforce roles such as job responsibilities, flex time/work hours and child care. The topic provides a wonderful opportunity for a multi-generational outreach meeting.

Negotiation skills are important in many situations, no matter where we are in life. This promises to be an important and empowering evening, so come and bring your friends.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

If you are interested in knowing about the reorganizing and changes taking place in AAUW save Saturday, October 25th! The Fall Forum will focus on where AAUW is going in the 21st century. If you want to be heard (and we do want your input) please try to attend the meeting scheduled on the 25th at the Holiday Inn in Taunton. It is a very convenient location-right off Route 495 (see *Bay Stater* for details).

We had a delightful Pot Luck Dinner at the Donovan Farm Clubhouse. I would like to thank Ginny for providing the venue. Thanks also to Sandy Carle and Lynn Howard for organizing the dinner. Our Membership VP's, Pat Laidler and Patricia McKay did a great job with the Directories and Bookmarks. A lot of fun was had by all at the Pound Auction which was organized by Ruthanne Kennedy to raise funds for the Educational Foundation. Our State President, Beryl Domingo joined us for the evening. I hope all who attended had a chance to speak with her; she is a wonderful person. We hope to see you all at our branch meeting on October 14th, "Negotiating Your Worth" at the Hingham Public Library, and at the New Members Orientation Tea on October 26th at the home of Cathy Barnes. See you in October.

Sheila Doherty, President

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We have many thank-yous to distribute. One goes to Hollie Bagley for providing the refrigerator sheets with our calendar of events. Even the color she chose almost matches the color of our directories. Thanks, Hollie, for again sharing your computer skills with us. Other thanks must go to all the members who again volunteered to help distribute our bookmarks and posters to the various libraries. This project would never work without members volunteering to do this. This morning I saw our poster already displayed at the Tufts Library in

Weymouth. A big THANK YOU TO EVERYONE. Remember each member is the best advertising we could have. So talk about us.

The Pot Luck Supper brought us two new members: YVONNE PRICE and JEANNETTE (JAN) PEABODY.

PS. If you're not yet registered to vote, here's a good link: <https://www.voteforchange.com/>. There's less than two weeks for you to get registered, especially if you have moved since the last time you voted. There's too much at stake not to vote. There's no excuse!

Please pass the word.

Pat McKay, Pat Laidler

THE PAMELA J. LINCOLN AWARD

The Hingham Area Branch of AAUW offers the Pamela J. Lincoln Recognition Award each year to a female student who is pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies. The award is given to a student with an outstanding record in academics, school activities and community service. Any branch member may sponsor a candidate for this award. The application form can be obtained from Patricia McKay. The deadline for the completed application is March 1,

A book sale to raise funds for this award will be held at the January branch meeting. Start saving your books and pennies to contribute to the sale. Bring a book, buy a book or two.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

I have always been fascinated by the idea of an “unparty”—getting an invitation to an event I wasn’t expected to attend, so I decided to try the concept as a fundraiser for the Legal Advocacy Fund. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.



So here is your invitation to the **Hingham Area Branch LAF Fundraiser**. Instead of receiving an invitation to a \$25 per person wine and cheese tasting, you get to stay home, put your feet up and relax. The catch is that, in place of going to the event, you support the cause by sending a donation to LAF for any amount. Make your check payable to AAUW-LAF and send to Hollie Bagley, 82 Kimball Beach Road, Hingham, MA 02043. If you prefer to donate on line you may do so by logging in to the Member Center at aauw.org and choosing Member Services Database. You will be prompted to log in. Choose Individual Contributions from the menu and be sure to select

LAF. To use the online method your donation minimum is \$25. If you do donate on line, please let me know via email at holliebagley@gmail.com.

The goal is to have 100% of our branch members give to LAF, so if you have already made a donation this calendar year, please let me know. RSVP to the Fundraiser by October 18th. All contributions gratefully accepted.

Hollie Bagley, LAF Liaison

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Thank you to everyone who participated in our EF pound auction at Potluck. The auction items were hidden treasures which enabled us to raise \$232 for the Educational Foundation Fund. Special kudos to all of our members who donated items and took part in the purchases from our treasure trove. Please call me if you are interested in assisting me with our next fundraiser for EF.

Ruthanne Kennedy 1) 337-1645

ADVENTURES IN DINING

This month the adventurers will travel to Quincy to try our hand at Japanese “hot pot” cooking. Hot Pot is an up and coming dining trend. For those who love to dine, you will find that this type of dining is fulfilling, fun, cost-effective and most importantly, healthy. All branch members are invited to join us on Thursday, October 9th at 6:30 pm at **Shabu Restaurant**, 397 Hancock Street, North Quincy (617 689-0288). Visit www.shaburestaurant.com to find out more about the menu and a map.

RSVP by Sunday, October 5th to Hollie at holliebagley@gmail.com or 781 749-6274

BOOK GROUP

The meeting of the Book Group, scheduled for October 7, has been postponed. The group will discuss *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See at a later date. Selections for the rest of the year include:

November – *Dead Man Walking* by Sister Helen Prejean

February - *Saving Fish from Drowning* by Amy Tan

March – *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks

April – *American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work* by Susan Cheever*

*For this month’s discussion, we’re hoping to organize a Saturday trip to Concord to visit the Concord Museum and have lunch at the Colonial Inn to discuss the book.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW at the Conventions: The Republican National Convention drew to a close after Senator John McCain (R-AZ) accepted the Republican nomination to become the party’s candidate for president. His running mate, Governor Sarah Palin (R-AK), accepted the nod as the party’s first female vice-presidential candidate. The delegates in St. Paul also adopted the Republican National Platform, the official statement of the party’s position on a wide variety of issues. The Democratic National Platform had been adopted the week earlier in Denver.

AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Director Lisa Maatz was on the front lines in Minneapolis/St. Paul as she had been in Denver, and she was joined by many AAUW members. AAUW again cosponsored events with the White House Project, as they did for the Democratic convention, and ensured that a mighty AAUW presence was felt by both parties. Get an insider’s point of view of what went on with Lisa’s daily blog posts from the convention floor on AAUW Dialog, and leave your thoughts on Governor Palin’s bid to be the first woman vice president.

Unemployment Jumps Hit Women Hardest: New statistics released by the U.S. Labor Department show that the unemployment rate jumped to 6.1 percent in August, the highest level since September 2003. According to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, women were hit the hardest, with a rise of 0.7 percentage points to 5.3 percent. Black women saw an even bigger jump—1.6 percentage points—to bring their unemployment rate to 9.1 percent. While unemployment rose among workers at all educational levels, workers without high school

degrees had the largest rise. Their unemployment rate jumped 1.1 percentage points to 9.6 percent, the highest level in almost 14 years.

U.S. Lags in Paid Parental Leave: A new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research found the U.S. to have the least generous parental leave policies of the 21 high-income countries surveyed. The report, “Parental Leave Policies in 21 Countries: Assessing Generosity and Gender Equality,” found the U.S. finished 20th out of 21 countries in terms of total length of leave guaranteed to a two-parent couple, and last among the countries studied when it comes to generosity of paid leave. Only Australia and the U.S. have no minimum standards for paid leave, but Australia gives new parents a \$3,000 “baby bonus.” While the Family and Medical Leave Act in the U.S. sets a minimum standard for parental leave, the leave is unpaid, and about 40 percent of U.S. workers are not protected by the FMLA. The report also found that the U.S. fell right in the middle of the countries in the study in the area of gender equality of leave, with the FMLA guaranteeing identical leave to both parents.

ACTION: Thanks to the hard work of AAUW members and coalition partners, the House passed (278 - 146) the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act (H.R. 5781) on June 19. This important legislation will provide federal workers up to four weeks of paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, and will be a significant step towards paid paternal leave for all Americans. Now it's time for the Senate to act; urge your senators to support this legislation. For more information, read AAUW's position paper on family friendly workplaces and visit the new FMLA section of AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund Resource Library for information, frequently asked questions, statistics, and resources.

Poll Shows Americans Support Paid Sick Days: A new survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago found that American workers overwhelmingly support paid sick days, and that it is an issue that matters to voters. Paid sick days were “very important” to 77 percent of those surveyed, and 86 percent of respondents said that employers should be required by law to provide them to employees. At least 70 percent saying both small and large businesses should be required to provide paid sick days, and more than 80 percent think part-time workers should have paid sick days available on a pro-rated basis. In terms of the upcoming elections, the survey found that 46 percent of those surveyed said they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports paid sick days, while only 10 percent are less likely to do so.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly half of American private-sector workers, including 21 million women, have no paid sick days. AAUW strongly supports the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 1542/S. 910). The bill provides full-time employees with seven paid sick days a year to be used for their own medical needs or to tend to the medical needs of a child, spouse or parent. Part-time employees would receive a pro-rated share of paid sick days.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Florida Supreme Court Rejects Voucher Amendments: The Florida Supreme Court rejected two proposed constitutional amendments that would have allowed public funds to be used for private and religious school vouchers. According to the Daytona Beach News-Journal, the amendments, proposed by the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, would have repealed part of the state constitution that bans public aid of religious institutions and would have overturned the Court's 2006 ruling that struck down former Governor Jeb Bush's (R) school voucher program. Because of the Court's ruling, the amendments will not appear on Florida's November ballot.

RESOURCES FOR ADVOCATES

Gear Up for Election Day: AAUW encourages you to start preparing now to ensure women's voices and issues are heard on Election Day, Nov. 4, 2008. Encourage other women to vote by forwarding AAUW's e-card to other women and encouraging them to register to vote and get involved. Read AAUW's Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout: A Manual for Community-Based Campaigns to Mobilize Women to Vote for tips on how you and your branch can help get more women to the polls. Use AAUW's new Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout Program in a Box with your AAUW branch or with a group of friends and neighbors to plan and implement a personal voter outreach campaign. If your branch or state has done a voter guide, send it to us and we'll include it on the AAUW site. Also, be sure that you are registered to vote and that your voter information is current. If you have moved since the last election, then you will need to re-register as many as 30 days before the election. Finally, get informed by reading more about AAUW's Voter Education Campaign, and read AAUW's Congressional Voting Record for the 110th Congress, First Session to find out how your elected officials voted on issues important to women and girls.

Sign Up Your Friends and AAUW Colleagues for Action Network!

To mobilize AAUW members to be constituent advocates, AAUW has created the Action Network, an e-mail alert system that anyone with an e-mail address can subscribe to. Anyone can sign up for Action Network, AAUW members and nonmembers alike. It is an excellent way to introduce potential members to AAUW's advocacy. You can also print out flyers online. Use flyers to sign up friends, family and coworkers to AAUW Action Network. These flyers are great to use at branch events, community events, etc.

Save the Date for the AAUW 2009 Convention: The 2009 AAUW Convention in St. Louis is scheduled for June 26–28, 2009. Please remember to plan for convention in your 2009 budget, put it on your calendar, and join us in St. Louis! Check the convention webpage often for updates.

UNIQUELY AAUW

Value of Branches to AAUW: With the latest AAUW Current Topics Briefing, AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman thanks the hundreds of members who provided feedback on the draft proposed bylaws for the restructured AAUW, and reiterates the value of the branches to AAUW's work. Read all of the entries in this ongoing series of member briefings, and subscribe to the AAUW Updates RSS feed to stay abreast of important information.

Attached is a PDF flyer advertising the October branch meeting. Please help us to get the news out about this terrific meeting by printing the flyer and distributing it. This meeting is a great opportunity to invite younger, professional women to attend.