

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

President: Sheila Doherty (781) 848-8122
Membership VPs: Patricia McKay (781) 337-3375 and Hollie Bagley (781) 749-6274
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 2007

CALENDAR

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| October 9, Tuesday | Branch Meeting 7:00 PM Hingham Middle School, Main Street, Hingham "The Negotiation Generation - Take Back Your Parental Authority" |
| October 12-13, Friday-Saturday | New England Regional Meeting, Brattleboro, VT |
| October 13, Saturday | Macy's Day - EF/LAF Fund Raiser |
| October 18, Thursday | Adventures in Dining 6:30 PM Aoyamo, Marshfield |
| October 21, Sunday | New Members Tea 2:00 PM Home of Cathy Barnes |
| October 23, Tuesday | Board Meeting 7:00 PM Home of Kathy Gabriel |
| October 30, Tuesday | Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM Home of Sharon Lemoff |
| November 8, Thursday | "Three Cups of Tea" Author Greg Mortenson 6:30PM Cambridge, MA |

BRANCH MEETING

The Hingham Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Buttonwood Books will welcome Lynne Reeves Griffin, Executive Director of Proactive Parenting on Tuesday, October 9 at 7:00 PM at the Hingham Middle School Auditorium (1101 Main Street) to talk about her new book, "Negotiation Generation: Take Back Your Parental Authority without Punishment."

Life in the first decade of the 21st century is busy and chaotic, and while it is impractical to return to the time before cell phones and the 72-channel television, parents still need to take control. Many of us are caught in a verbal tug-of-war with our children where requests become platforms for endless discussion. Griffin's book offers practical guidelines and concrete suggestions to get parents (of children of all ages!) out of the endless cycle of debate. Griffin, a Scituate resident, is a lecturer, writer and consultant to parents, teachers and health care professionals regarding child development, behavior management, and issues affecting today's families. She is a frequent radio and television guest expert. There is no charge for admission to this event, although Griffin's book will be available for sale. For more information, call Diane Morash at 781-749-8756.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! Have you seen the new AAUW website? It is up and ready to use. Navigating around the site is easier than ever before. We had some excellent training on September 8th which introduced us to the new site. Our own Hollie Bagley was the training leader. Thank you, Hollie, for a job well done! If you haven't visited it yet, please do so—www.aauw.org.

Speaking of state leadership, we in Hingham are very lucky to have four members of our branch on the state board—Pat Bologna, as President, Hollie Bagley as Administrative Coordinator, Ginny Giordano as Treasurer, and Sharon Lemoff as LAF Vice President. Great job, girls!



Pot Luck was a great success. Kudos to Lynn Howard and Sandy Carle—a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all. Thanks to our members the cuisine was fabulous. We even had a guest join as a new member. Welcome Cindy! Thank you, Patricia McKay, for organizing the book sale, bookmarks, and program flier. Also thanks to Allison Marshall for the "refrigerator" reminders.

The New England Regional Conference is set for October 12th and 13th in Brattleboro, Vermont. Five of us from our branch are planning to attend, so let me know if you want to come. We will be joining our fellow AAUW members from Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine, and Massachusetts for a weekend of fun and learning. Madeleine Kunin, former Governor of Vermont and Ambassador to Switzerland, along with Dr. Karen Houseknecht, VP of Biology ASCI, Inc., will be sharing with us how they found their public voice. I hear that the Connecticut delegation is meeting in Vermont at 11 o'clock for a day of sightseeing and shopping before the Friday night reception...



The first of our exciting programs will be October 9th—The Negotiation Generation-Take Back Your Parental Authority. Author Lynne Griffin will speak at 7 o'clock at Hingham Middle School. The program is co-sponsored by Buttonwood Books. A big thank to Jane Moore and Diane Morash and their program committee for putting together such an interesting AAUW year.

I am looking forward to getting to know our newest members at the New Member Orientation Tea on Sunday afternoon, October 21st at the home of Cathy Barnes in Hull.

Last, but not least, Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, will be speaking in Cambridge at 7 o'clock on November 8th. Tickets should be purchased in advance. Please contact me (781 267-1098) for more information.

We hope to see you all in October!

Sheila Doherty

PUBLIC POLICY

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 to which anyone with an e-mail address can subscribe. 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.

On August 28th I participated in a national AAUW conference call for public policy members. If there was one thing that I took home from that conference call, it was the following: the above system really works and it is extremely easy to use. Writing your representative is the best thing that you can do to improve your situation as a woman, whether in terms of money, social standing or rights before the law. If you do not declare or verbalize your needs, no one else can attend to them, not even those authorized to do so by law.
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Vacant House Seat Filled by California Democrat

California State Assemblywoman Laura Richardson became the newest Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday after winning a special election to fill the seat vacated by the death of Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald on April 22. Richardson, a former employee and political protégée of Millender-McDonald, beat the late incumbent's daughter and 15 other candidates on the primary ballot to earn the seat. The seat represents California's heavily Hispanic, black, and Democratic 37th District in southern Los Angeles County.

Women Plateau in Elected Office Numbers

While the number of women elected to public office has grown sharply over the past two decades, the 2008 elections could end with the number of women officeholders holding steady or even dropping, the Wall Street Journal reported. After women won a record 16 seats in the Senate and 70 in the House in the 2006 elections, women will face harder challenges in 2008, with **14 women** listed as among the **75 most vulnerable House members** and **all three women** in the Senate expecting tough competition. Women will also give up 2 governorships and face a tough challenge over a third. Women currently hold approximately 17 percent of elected offices at the federal level and 25 percent at the state level. One explanation for the leveling off may be that women are much less likely to run in the first place, and usually only do so after being recruited and convinced of their qualifications. However, research by Brown University shows that when a woman does run, she is as likely to win office as a man.

The article also discusses the importance of women voters, noting that **in 2004, women outnumbered men voters by 8.8 million. In 2006, female voters supplied the margin of victory in Senate races in Missouri , Montana , and Virginia , where Republican defeats enabled Democrats to take control of the House.** AAUW's Voter Education Campaign encourages women to get involved in the political process and shows the impact congressional action has on their lives and the lives of the people they love. AAUW's *Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout* manual informs members how to conduct efficient and effective get-out-the-vote campaigns to impact the turnout of women voters.

U.S. News College Rankings Released

U.S. News & World Report released their new rankings of colleges last week, with continued controversy and some new additions. According to Inside Higher Ed, the percentage of college and university presidents participating in the "reputational survey" – in which they rank similar institutions – has fallen to just 51 percent. Controversial not only because many presidents view it as a "beauty pageant", the reputational survey is also controversial because it accounts for 25 percent of the total score a institution receives, which makes it more heavily weighted than any other factor.

For the first time this year, the rankings include consideration of what percentage of undergraduates are Pell Grant recipients, a move that many educators have been pushing for in recent years. Because many factors in the rankings favor wealthier institutions, colleges that admit many low-income students, who on average may have lower test scores and graduation rates, are penalized by the system. Brian Kelly, the top editor at U.S. News, said the magazine was concerned by the idea that it had created a disincentive to enroll low-income students.

Since its founding in 1881, AAUW has been committed to making the dream of a higher education a reality for women. Our position paper on higher education is available online. To learn more about AAUW's priorities for the Higher Education Act reauthorization, look at our HEA recommendations to the House and to the Senate.

RESOURCES FOR ADVOCATES

Attend a Town Hall Meeting

Many members of Congress hold town hall meetings in their home districts and states in August, and AAUW encourages you to attend one in your area. This is a great opportunity to show your representative and senators that AAUW members are an active part of their constituency and work to influence the positions Congress takes on issues important to us. If you know of an upcoming meeting in your area and would like more information on AAUW issues you can ask about at the meeting, contact us at votered@aauw.org.

Online Game for Community Organizing

CompassPoint Nonprofit Services, in conjunction with a host of partners, has created a "Community Organizing Toolkit", a set of resources that support face-to-face training for residents and community leaders. The "Organizing Game", the toolkit's online resource, is used to introduce concepts, prompt discussion, and allow residents to practice skills in a safe, non-threatening environment. The initial focus of the Toolkit is door-knocking, an organizing technique that's particularly effective in moving issues within a local community. AAUW encourages our public policy leadership to be activists in their communities. Visit AAUW's Tools for Grassroots Action page for resources that will help you speak out on issues important to you.

UNIQUELY AAUW - NSF Renews AAUW Grant

The National Science Foundation has approved funding for the second year of AAUW's National Girls Collaborative Project. For the second year of this five-year project, AAUW was awarded \$140,000 and given the green light to continue our work. AAUW Director of Research Catherine Hill and Research Associate Christianne Corbett played leadership roles in this project and deserve credit for NSF's continued confidence in AAUW's work. The goal of the NGCP is to facilitate collaboration among projects designed to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education to girls so that they can share resources, work together, and learn from one another. A big part of the NGCP is the creation of a program directory of these girl-serving projects. This project is a great model for effective staff and volunteer collaboration, leveraging both the strengths of the Educational Foundation and the Association along with AAUW's partner on this project, the Puget Sound Center for Teaching & Learning.

Catherine Schindewolf

BOOK GROUP - REMINDER

I am looking for the best times for members to attend a book group in October or November. We are planning to read 'Three Cups of Tea' by Greg Mortenson. I am willing to host the first meeting...I just need those who are interested to contact me with the best times.

Carol Sullivan-Hanley
(781) 545-9341

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We are thrilled to announce new member, **Cindy Fusco**, brought to Pot Luck by Deanne Noiseux. Deanne becomes another Hingham Area Branch member to be listed in the **Member-Get-A-Member Hall of Fame** and gets a chance to win \$1500 to be applied toward a trip to our next convention. Cindy was able to take advantage of the **Shape the Future** discount which can be offered to new members who "join on the spot" at an AAUW sponsored event. Deanne was recruited as a member by Ginny Giordano. Thanks Deanne and Ginny for helping to grow our branch! Our pattern continues - let's not break it. Please add Cindy to your membership directory.

Last spring members of the AAUW Membership Strategic Plan Task Force contacted those branches and states who had received the awards of the **Keys to the Future** campaign to ask them what it was that made them successful. Both presidents and membership vice presidents were called.



There were a couple of things that stuck out as a consistent element for those states and branches:

Enthusiasm on the part of the branch president and membership VP that became contagious among the members of the branch(es).

A **passion** for AAUW and its mission.

So---what is your EQ—your enthusiasm quotient? Are you enthusiastic about AAUW? About your branch? About inviting family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances to join AAUW?

Our October branch meeting offers the perfect venue to invite a prospective member—especially anyone trying to raise or teach children in today’s world. Surely each of us must know someone who could benefit from hearing author Lynn Griffin. Pick up the phone and with enthusiasm invite that someone today!

ChitChat: **Diane Morash** answered our plea for chitchat items. Diane writes: **Jenn** just received her MA in French from Tufts (I was reminded of that because I renewed her membership but didn't update the directory). She is back at home, looking for a job in higher education or working with international students in some way. Tony is heading to King's College in London next weekend to earn his MA in Intelligence and International Security from their Dept. of War Studies, and our baby, Lizzy, began her freshman year at UNH's Whittemore School of Business. Busy time - our revolving door is moving at warp speed!” Congratulations to **Jenn Morash!** It seems like only yesterday Hollie met your mother for the first time and she was pregnant with you. We will have to update the directory to reflect the latest degree. **Ruthanne Kennedy, Sandy Carle** and **Judy Zografos** often travel together. Their latest adventure was to Mystic, CT. But our travel prize goes to **Sharon Lemoff** who missed Pot Luck because she was on her way home from Memphis where she visited newly-wed son, Andy and his wife. She will be home a few days and then heads to Fort Lauderdale to visit with her mom, after which she and Ted will take a Caribbean cruise to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on October 1st. Another milestone anniversary will be celebrated on October 18th by **Lynn Howard** and her husband—their 10th. Best Wishes! “Keep those notes and letters coming in.” We want to hear from you.

Hollie Bagley
Patricia McKay