

# AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

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Program VPs: Jane Moore (781) 659-9443 and Diane Morash (781) 8756

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Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Vision Statement: AAUW is committed to making a significant impact on education and equity for all women and girls.

We will remove barriers and develop opportunities to enable women and girls to reach their full potential.

This shared vision drives the work of AAUW at all levels.

## HINGHAM AREA BRANCH      SEPTEMBER 2007

### CALENDAR

September 8, Saturday	Leadership Training, Board Meeting 8:30 AM Notre Dame Academy, Hingham
September 11, Tuesday	Adventures in Dining, 7:00 PM Feng Shui, Cohasset
September 18, Tuesday	Potluck Dinner, 6:30 PM Allerton House, Hingham
September 20, Thursday	Writers Group, 7:30 PM Home of Gwen Sayian contact: Patricia McKay
September 25, Tuesday	Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM Home of Chrisanne Gregoire 781-749-5493, ggreg@comcast.net
October 30, Tuesday	Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM Home of Sharon Lemoff 781-749-3734, <a href="mailto:slemoff@msm.com">slemoff@msm.com</a>

### POTLUCK DINNER

We will start the year with the Annual Potluck Dinner. It will be held on **Tuesday, September 18, 2007** at 6:30 PM at The Allerton House, 15 Conditto Road in Hingham. As usual, we ask you to bring your own place setting (plates and flatware) and a main dish, salad or dessert. And once again, we will hold a **BOOK SALE** to raise funds for the Recognition Award. Bring one or two books to give away and buy as many books as you wish. All donations, literary and monetary, gratefully accepted.

Please let us know by Sunday, September 16 if you are coming and what dish you'll be bringing.

Reservations should be made by calling or e-mailing Lynn at 781-812-1169

[lynnphoward82@comcast.net](mailto:lynnphoward82@comcast.net)). We look forward to hearing from you.

Sandy Carle & Lynn Howard  
**Social Committee Co-chairs**

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

"When you educate a boy, you educate an individual. When you educate a girl, you educate a community." - Greg Mortenson

This is a quote from one of the keynote speakers at the AAUW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. He is the author of Three Cups of Tea and has spent his life promoting education, especially for girls, in remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Isn't this what we do in AAUW-Hingham in a smaller way?

We begin this year with the summer leadership training meeting on September 8th at 8:30 AM at Notre Dame Academy Hingham. Join us and meet other members of AAUW from around the state who promote education and equity for women and girls.

Our annual Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Tuesday, September 18th at 6:30 PM at the Allerton House in Hingham. Our program committee has been busy all summer planning our meetings for the 2007-2008 year. They have done a great job. You will hear about the programs at Pot Luck. It is also a great opportunity to bring friends and introduce them to AAUW.

So shake out your beach bags, unpack your suitcases, and we'll see you on September 8th at Notre Dame Academy (details in The Baystater). If you can not make it on Saturday, September 8th, we'll see you at Pot Luck on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> - and don't forget to bring your friends.

Sheila

## **CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**

Successful, thought-provoking, a leap of faith - these are a few of the words that come to mind to describe our 2007 AAUW convention in Phoenix celebrating our 125<sup>th</sup> year. This conference was "history in the making," reminiscent of Boston in 1981 and Washington, opening our enrollments so women like Sandra Day O'Connor wouldn't have to resign.

The vote to change our organizational structure was unanimous. At stake, AAUW survival, relevance, and the future of the organization, dubbed "Phoenix Rising" by Sherry Schiller, AAUW's process consultant since 2006. "The legend of the phoenix is a symbol of rebirth, self renewal, resurrection, and healing." AAUW soars forward for another 125 years.

Memorable moments for me started at 4:30 AM on our first day, rising in a hot air balloon over Phoenix and arriving back in time for our first business meeting at 10, and continuing through the "Dare to Lead" panel at 9:00 PM. A little voice kept saying "enough," but we kept on ticking. The likes of Joyce Change, global head of emerging markets at J P Morgan Chase; Jay Parry, President of WNBA Phoenix Mercury; Asra Nomani, activist and author of "Standing Alone in Mecca"; and Consuelo C. Kickbusch, formerly the highest ranking Hispanic woman in the US Army Combat Support Field gave truly stimulating glimpses of women who make a difference in our world today.

Each day was filled with inspiring workshops and business meetings. The sessions with Greg Mortenson "Three Cups of Tea" author, and Mae Jemison, astronaut, were especially uplifting and validated our mission of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Please ask me about Lisa Maatz's Title IX Workshop, the New England Regional Caucus, the Cyber Café, and our newly elected national officers at the Potluck Dinner.

Ruthanne Kennedy

## FUND RAISING – EF/LAF

Efforts will renew in September to raise funds for the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Educational Foundation programs will fund over \$4,000,000 in fellowships and grants to more than 250 women in 2007-2008.

The Educational Foundation's Achievement Award was received by Mae C. Jemison, founder of The Jemison Group, Inc. The Ophelia Project was the recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award. The 2007 Recognition Award for Emerging Scholars was presented to Misty Sailors, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The 2007 Founders Distinguished Senior Scholar Award was received by Harriet B. Presser, Distinguished University Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland at College Park. These are just a few of the talented women we will recognize this year. Massachusetts was one of the ten states recognized for increasing our donations over 84 % from the previous year. Congratulations for a job well done!

Our Legal Advocacy Fund is presently supporting 17 lawsuits. So far, in 2007 \$64,000 has been appropriated to help with these cases. The Legal Advocacy Fund has given over 100 plaintiffs over \$1,300,000 in financial aid since its inception 25 years ago, notwithstanding the considerable emotional support it offers to plaintiffs involved in suits of sexual harassment, pay discrimination, and tenure bias.

There is much to do, and we are making strides to correct injustice at our institutions of higher education.

Ruthanne Kennedy  
EF/LAF Chair

## 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.

*Please note: the above system really works and it is easy to use. I have always 'thought' about writing to my representative, but have rarely done it. With this program it doesn't take even 5 minutes to send off a letter supporting legislature for women, families, and social institutions. CAS*

As branch Public Policy Chair I will attempt to keep you informed each month of important issues concerning women and girls. Much has happened over the summer. For more details visit the AAUW website and click on the Advocacy tab.

The House of Representatives passed the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (H.R. 2831)**, beginning the process of righting the wrong done by the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in May which severely limited the ability of victims of pay discrimination to sue under Title VII. This bill simply restores the law to the way it was applied by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the courts prior to the Court's decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*.

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), along with several co-sponsors, introduced the **Fair Pay Restoration Act (S. 1843)** It would reverse the controversial Supreme Court ruling in the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company* case that narrowed employee rights to sue over pay discrimination.

If passed, the Fair Pay Restoration Act would allow those discriminated against in pay to file a claim 180 days after the last discriminatory action, which could be a paycheck. Given the secrecy of pay, the time allowed to file charges against employers is imperative, as it may take some time before one even discovers that discrimination has occurred. *As women earn only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns, increasing the rights for women to challenge their discriminating employers is an important step towards fair pay.*

**ACTION:** AAUW strongly supports efforts to close the persistent wage gap between men and women. If you haven't done so already, use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist online to support the [Fair Pay Restoration Act](#) and the [Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#).

Other issues of interest brought to our attention by AAUW communications include:

- **College Board Issues Affirmative Action Guidance** AAUW supports affirmative action programs that establish equal opportunity for women and minorities and improve gender, racial, and ethnic diversity in educational institutions and in workplaces founded on the belief that all individuals have the right to full and free opportunity intellectually, socially, and economically, including the right to be employed according to abilities without regard to sex.
- **Amherst College Replaces Student Loans with Scholarships** AAUW commends the Amherst College trustee members for taking such a courageous step in the right direction. AAUW believes ensuring and increasing access to higher education is imperative to helping women obtain financial security and economic independence. Loan repayment is an even more significant burden for women, who earn less on average over the course of their lives than their male counterparts. By removing the burden of future loan debt that prevents so many from attending college, Amherst's move will help make the dream of higher education a reality for many.
- **A Win for Women's Health Services** resulted with the defeat of the Pence amendment which attacked family planning services. AAUW believes that improved pregnancy prevention programs, new technologies, and access to complete reproductive health services provided through Title X programs, including those provided at local Planned Parenthood clinics, enhance women's reproductive choices and overall health. Rather than restricting funds and providers, AAUW believes the program should be expanded. AAUW submitted a letter to all representatives urging them to vote against the Pence amendment, and luckily, thanks to efforts by Planned Parenthood, AAUW, and coalition members, the amendment failed (231-189).
- **Senate Reauthorizes Higher Ed** AAUW believes that with changes in the workforce over the last 125 years, higher education has become less of a luxury and more of a necessity. The Higher Education Act is the cornerstone of the federal government's commitment to post-secondary education.
- **Minimum Wage Earners Finally Get a Raise** AAUW believes raising the minimum wage is an important step toward increasing the economic security of working women and their families, and should not be cynically used as an excuse for additional tax cuts.
- The Consumers Union recently published a report outlining **Improved Financial Disclosure Recommendations** for student loans and counseling. It is important for families to be able to make informed choices in order to keep a competitive marketplace for lenders. AAUW sees these recommendations as an important step towards ensuring fair lending practices with student loans.

- **“The Myth about Boys”** might be just that. As girls and women continue to make gains in education, AAUW stresses that it is important to remember that these successes do not come at the expense of boys and men. Unfortunately, that is the insidious implication underlying many of the recent assaults on Title IX. AAUW is proud of women’s and girl’s achievements and believes policies and reforms that allow women and men to excel are beneficial for society as a whole.
- **Obese Girls Less Likely to Go to College** According to a [recent study from the University of Texas at Austin](#), obese girls are half as likely to go to college as their more slender counterparts. While obese boys’ enrollment is no different from the enrollment of other members of their gender, obese women are even less likely to go to college if they attended a high school where obesity is relatively uncommon, if they hold minority status, or if their parents never went to college themselves. Robert Crosnoe, author of the study, noted, "That girls are far more vulnerable to the non-health risks of obesity reinforces the notion that body image is more important to girls' self-concept and that social norms have greater effects on the education of girls than boys."

Catherine Schindewolf

## BRANCH WEB PAGE



Have you ever visited our branch web page? Located on the AAUW-MA website ([www.aauw-ma.org](http://www.aauw-ma.org)) under the Local Branches button, the Hingham Area Branch web page is a source of information for both members and potential members. The page offers

- contact information on our officers
- a calendar of our events and programs for the year
- reminders and information about the current upcoming program
- current and back issues of the *News of Note*
- our publicity releases
- a branch brochure to be downloaded and used for recruitment
- recognition award information
- and more

Get in the habit of checking the site. No more searching for your copy of *News of Note* or Sheila’s email address or wondering what the next program will be. It’s all there at your fingertips. The direct link is: <http://www.aauw-ma.org/Hingham%202005/index.htm> Add the page to your bookmarks.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Welcome back to another exciting AAUW year! We are delighted to announce new member, **Patricia Bradley**, who was recruited by Kathy Gabriel, who, in turn, was recruited by Pat Bologna. Let’s keep this pattern flowing. AAUW is continuing its membership initiatives: **Keys to the Future**—the member-get-a-member recruitment program and **Shape the Future**, offering 50% discounts off Association dues to members joining at an AAUW sponsored event. The Pot Luck supper is a perfect place to take advantage of both of these initiatives. Bring a prospective member (or more) to Pot Luck—she gets a free dinner and a chance to join AAUW with a significant discount. A win-win situation. If you would like to have someone invited to Pot Luck or to receive information about our branch, please let Hollie or Patricia know. Of course, you can do the inviting personally (a better idea), and you can use the branch, state, and national websites as a recommendation to find out more about AAUW. We have feedback that many prospective members use the websites to research our organization. Our branch web page is hosted by the state at [www.aauw-ma.org](http://www.aauw-ma.org) under the Local Branches button. You can access the

national website at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Be sure to check it out. A new, more user friendly design will be available after September 18<sup>th</sup>.



We bid a fond farewell to long-time members **Cathy Kuchinski McCormick** ([CathyKuch@nc.rr.com](mailto:CathyKuch@nc.rr.com)) and **Sue Pace** ([esp1@surfbest.net](mailto:esp1@surfbest.net)). Cathy feels she is now sufficiently settled in North Carolina so she can transfer her allegiance to a local branch and Sue will find a branch in Florida after her move. We thank them for their contributions to our branch and we wish them well in their new surroundings. We will miss them and know they will be welcomed by their new branches.

The *Report of the Membership Task Force* is found on page 10 of the Fall 2007 issue of the *BayStater*. This report, the result of the strategic process, lists five statements which reflect needs which must be addressed in order to assure a viable organization in the future. Please take time to read through the page. Of significant interest to our branch is Statement 2: “**It is incumbent that every member realizes that each member has a vital role in the future of the organization; that every member must be a membership recruiter to assure the viability of AAUW.**” Hollie once asked her eighth grade teacher, “Why do you repeat things so many times?” The teacher replied, “Some people get it the first time, some the third time, and some don’t get it until after the thirty-third time.” Let’s not wait for the thirty-third time to let it sink in—**each of us is equally responsible for membership recruitment.** Invite someone to Pot Luck today!



**Chit Chat:** Summer allows many to travel and members of our branch are no exception. The Phoenix Convention attendees took advantage to extend their trips: **Ruthanne Kennedy** visited her niece, husband, and daughter in Texas and a friend in Scottsdale before the Convention. **Pat** and John **Bologna** went on from Phoenix to California, and **Sheila Doherty** joined a friend for a trip to Sedona, the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas before returning home. **Hollie Bagley** and **Cathy Barnes** stayed an extra day to visit Sedona, but then had to rush back to pack for their cruise/tour to Alaska. **Deanne Noiseau** and **Ginny Giordano** traveled west to visit a mutual friend, and **Lynn Howard** toured Iceland. Ginny took time from getting her house ready to put on the market. She and Tony will be moving to Donovan Farms in Norwell in the fall. Let us know of your travels. Should there be a prize for the most traveled? Since April Hollie has been to Nashville, cruised down the Danube river, spent a week in Leipzig, Germany, took in the Convention in Phoenix, did the Alaska cruise/land tour, and upon returning drove to New Brunswick, Canada the very next day. Can you top this?

Double congratulations go to **Sharon Lemoff**, first for her retirement from H &R Block and, second on the marriage of her son, Andy. Congratulations also are in order for **Kathy Gabriel** on the marriage of her son in August. Neal Doherty, husband of **Sheila Doherty** is recovering nicely from triple by-pass surgery in May, and our best wishes for a speedy recovery on his recent hospitalization go out to **Bernie Gregoire**, husband of **Chrisanne**.

If you are a Chit Chat fan and would like to see it continue, please send snippets of news about our members and their loved ones to Hollie and/or Patricia. We need to hear from you.

Hollie Bagley  
Patricia McKay

**Membership Directories** will be distributed at Pot Luck. 2007-2008 dues must be paid in order to be listed in the directory or to receive a copy.

**Charity Night Fundraiser** - save October 13<sup>th</sup> for this important event – details later!

