

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 FEBRUARY 2008

CALENDAR

February 2, Saturday	Winter Conference, 9:00 AM "Challenges in a New Land: Immigration, Women and Families" UMass, Lowell
February 5, Tuesday	Book Group, 7:00 PM "Thread of Grace" by Mary Russell Home of Jane Street
February 12, Tuesday	Branch Meeting, 7:00 PM "Time to Laugh" Barbara Tortarella, Speaker Linden Ponds, Hingham
February 21, Thursday	Writers Group, 7:30 PM Brewed Awakening, Hingham Square
February 26, Tuesday	Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM Home of Chrisanne Gregoire
February 28, Thursday	Declutter Bugs, 4:30 PM Panera's at Derby Street Shoppes, Hingham
February 28, Thursday	Adventures in Dining, 6:30 PM Not Your Average Joe's, Route 228, Norwell

BRANCH MEETING

The meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12th at Linden Ponds, on Whiting Street (Route 53) in Hingham. We will meet at 7:00 PM to hear a talk by Barbara Tortarella entitled "Time to Laugh." Jane Moore is the host for the evening. Come, laugh, and enjoy!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let's learn to laugh our way through life. I hope you plan to be at our next branch meeting where Barbara Tortarella will share some interesting stories with us. This meeting will get us through the "February Winter Blues".

Don't forget membership dues are half price through March 15th. Also, if a prospective member joins at an AAUW meeting there is also another discount- so bring all your friends. Membership Co-Chairs, Hollie and Patricia are hard at work recruiting new members, as are we all. Remember, membership is a group effort. Gwen Sayian's article in the Hingham Journal last month was responsible for great visibility; and that's what it's

all about- getting our message out to the public.

We had a great meeting last month with our book discussion and supper. It was very well attended with over thirty women there. Three new members joined that night. Why don't you bring a friend to the next meeting? See you Tuesday, February 12th at Linden Ponds.

Sheila Doherty

PAMELA J. LINCOLN RECOGNITION AWARD

If you know a young woman who is an outstanding student and who has been involved in school and/or community service, she is a candidate for the Pamela J. Lincoln Recognition Award. This student may be a high school student (usually a senior) or a college student. Applications for this award are available now. To receive an application please contact Patricia McKay (781-337-3375) Applications are due by March 1, 2007.

A PROGRAM OF INTEREST

The James Library & Center for the Arts, 24 West Street, Norwell, is sponsoring a program of interest:

Three Mill Girls: We Are Not Machines

Saturday, February 9 at 3 p.m.

Tickets \$10 at the door, or in advance by calling the James Library (781-659-7100)

Three Mill Girls is a one-woman-presentation by the dynamic actress Marcia Estabrook. This hour - long show addresses issues of woman's rights, labor issues and immigration through her depiction of three young mill workers. Marcia is a dynamic performer -- the 19th century Lowell textile mills will come to life. See the website www.jameslibrary.org for information on this and other library programs.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

On Thursday, January 17th, as ten of us were dining at Terra Brasili's, another AAUW event was taking place across the country. The *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams* special series, "The Truth About Boys and Girls," Thursday night's segment highlighted AAUW's research on the gender/pay gap. In case you missed it, two video clips from the show can be viewed from links at www.aauw-ma.org/. And while you are there, take the time to view the AAUW video on YouTube. All three will make you proud you are an AAUW member. And we couldn't be prouder of our branch members at the January meeting graciously welcoming our guests, including them in our conversations, book discussion, and sharing with them our delicious supper. Because Gwen's article was right on the money—we are a welcoming group—three of our guests who had read our publicity, joined on the spot taking advantage of both half-year dues and the Shape the Future discount. Please continue to recruit members for AAUW. Not only does it benefit our branch (who couldn't feel the energy and enthusiasm in the air with 25 members and 5 guests present at the January meeting), but it also benefits the new member. Every member amplifies our voice and multiplies our impact as we continue the struggle to make equity real. Help grow AAUW and make our collective voice louder on issues that matter to women and girls. Let's continue to give a warm welcome to the following new members and add their information to your directory:

Gayle M. Brown

8 Whiting Lane
Hingham, MA 02043
781-749-7166

Gmb8@comcast.net

University of Connecticut BS '65 (Speech Pathology)

Mary Cox

5 Berkley Circle
Hingham, MA 02043
781-740-0518
mcox@mpsd.org

Newton College BA
UMass MED '71

WELCOME

Evelyn (Lynne) O'Brien

36 Hillside Drive
Cohasset, MA 02025
978-407-2824

Boston State College BS '69

University of Rhode Island MA '71 (Counseling)

University of Vermont CAS '74 (Administration and Planning)

ChitChat: In addition to her duties as Chair of Hingham's School Committee, **Chrisanne Gregoire** has been busier than usual this winter. Daughter, Gail, was married in early December and son, David, became the proud father of twins—a girl and a boy. We wish her husband, Bernie, a speedy recovery from triple by-pass heart surgery. And speaking of busy members, **Pat Bologna**, added one more item to her plate—her mom broke her hip before Christmas. Let's hope by now she is well on the way to mending. **Sheila Doherty** is elated with the engagement of her daughter, Lauren (sister-in-law of **Julie Doherty**). A May 2009 wedding is planned. Best wishes to Lauren and Matt! **Ginny Giordano** bumped into **Priscilla Johnsen** who sent us all a big hello. Priscilla, we miss you and hope you will be back real soon. **Kay Campbell** continues to be busy, busy, busy with her book as it nears publication. We can't wait to tell the world we actually know a best-selling author! We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Adrienne Gowen's** husband, Gerard, in November. We send our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.

Hollie Bagley and Patricia McKay

Tech Tip: If the links to the videos do not appear on the landing page when you open the AAUW-MA website, refresh (reload) your page to be sure you have the latest version. Some browsers show the cached version (the version you viewed the last time you visited the site) until you use your refresh/reload button found on your browser bar. Mine is located next to my forward and back navigation arrows.



ADVENTURES IN DINING



We have tried Afghani, Brazilian, Chinese, Cuban, Indian, Italian, Japanese, Mexican, and Thai food. This month we are treating our palettes to familiar comfort food—American. The Adventures in Dining group will meet at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 28th at **Not Your Average Joe's**, Route 228, Norwell (formerly the Ground Round). The group is open to all members. All we ask is that you let us know if you will be attending so we can make a reservation. RSVP to Hollie at hollie@gallivan.org or 781.749.6274 by February 22nd.

Happy New Year from AAUW!

Top Women's Stories of 2007

Women's eNews compiled a list of their Top 10 Stories of 2007 in their weekly "Cheers and Jeers" article. Included in the highlights of the good and the bad over the past year are introductions of the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Women's Equality Amendment, the increase in the minimum wage, the attack on reproductive rights, and the persistence of the wage gap. AAUW knows that your advocacy and that of tens of thousands of others in our nationwide network of e-activists has helped AAUW make an impact on public policy throughout 2007. We thank you for playing an integral role in AAUW's success in moving the mission forward in the past year.

ACTION: AAUW urges you to resolve in the New Year to help others speak their minds, too! Help Action Network grow and be even more of a force in our nation's capital. Urge your friends and family to sign up for the AAUW's Action Network today, because equity is still an issue! **Action Network is free to anyone who has an e-mail address—not just AAUW members.** It's perfect for anyone who wants to know what's going on in

Washington, D.C. and needs a simple and easy way to affect the outcome on issues they care about. It's also a great way to introduce your friends and family to AAUW and our advocacy efforts. Just visit the Tell A Friend page where you can enter their e-mail addresses to send them an invitation to join, or simply forward this email to them and let them know they can join online at <http://capwiz.com/aauw/mlm/signup>.

Fair Pay? UM Nurses Take the Question to Court

A group of 30 female nurses and nurse practitioners recently filed suit against the University of Michigan, claiming that gender discrimination has resulted in unequal pay. According to the Michigan Daily, the lawsuit claims that their male colleagues in comparable jobs have made more money and have received more raises over the past three years, in violation of both Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the federal Equal Pay Act of 1963. The plaintiffs are seeking back pay, monetary damages, and a judicial order mandating fair compensation in the future. Kate Vloet, spokeswoman for the U-M Health System, spoke with the Ann Arbor News and stated that, "We are confident that a court will agree that the university establishes its pay in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner, and not on the basis of gender."

Abortion Rates Continue to Decline; Birthrates Continue to Rise

According to a report by the Guttmacher Institute, abortion rates in the U.S. are continuing their downward trend and are currently at their lowest level since 1974. In 2005, the abortion rate was calculated at 19.4 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 and the total number of abortions was 1.2 million, 25 percent below the all-time high of 1.6 million in 1990. While the decrease in the number of abortions is positive, "Our policymakers at the state and federal levels need to understand that behind virtually every abortion is an unintended pregnancy, so we must redouble our efforts towards prevention, through better access to contraception," says Sharon L. Camp, president and CEO of the Guttmacher Institute.

In contrast to the abortion rate, the birthrate in the U.S. is on the rise. According to the Washington Post, there were 4.3 million births last year, the highest rate since 1961. This rise in the birth rate exceeds the replacement rate for the first time since 1971. The Centers for Disease Control also reported that America's teen birthrate rose for the first time in 15 years and is higher than those of Canada, Great Britain, Sweden, and France. Although this rise is partly due to an increase in population, no one race or ethnicity is entirely responsible. Experts attribute this rise to several factors, including a decline in contraceptive use, a drop in access to abortion, poor education, and poverty.

ACTION: AAUW believes individuals should have complete and accurate information about their reproductive health and family planning options. Only with complete reproductive health information can young people make informed and appropriate decisions. If you haven't yet done so, use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist online to urge your representative to get REAL about sex education by cosponsoring and supporting the Responsible Education About Life Act (H.R. 1653). This bill would authorize federal funds for states to offer comprehensive and medically accurate sex education in their schools. The REAL Act is a comprehensive approach to sex education—education that promotes abstinence but includes information about contraception.

As Anniversary Nears, Anti-Choice Groups Prepare to Take Roe v. Wade to the Polls

Tuesday, January 22, marks the 35th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark Roe v. Wade decision. As many prepare to celebrate next week's anniversary, many anti-choice groups nationwide are increasing their efforts at the state level for the 2008 elections. In several states, voters will not only be voting for President, but will also face several anti-abortion ballot initiatives when they head to the polls next November. According to U.S. News and World Report, this list includes Colorado voters, who could face a constitutional amendment declaring a fertilized egg a "person" who enjoys "inalienable rights, equality of

justice, and due process of law,” and Missouri voters, who could decide on a measure requiring doctors to review a patient’s medical background and lifestyle. According to the Feminist Majority, these legislative changes could be used to limit women’s rights by prohibiting use of several types of birth control and subjecting doctors to lawsuits from women who later regret their decision.

In a related story from the Associated Press, anti-choice activists in Kansas have used an antiquated state law that allows citizens to launch grand jury investigations by gathering signatures to bring a case against a physician who performs abortions. The investigation claims Dr. George Tiller is violating a state law restricting late-term abortions. “This is a witch hunt—plain and simple,” said Vicki Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation, an abortion rights group. “It clearly demonstrates the inherent danger of empowering biased advocacy groups to impanel a grand jury.” Oklahoma, New Mexico, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Nevada also provide for citizen-petitioned grand juries.

Anti-choice advocates are pushing for these changes in the wake of the reconfiguration of the Supreme Court. According to NARAL Pro-Choice America’s 2006 report *Who Decides? The Status of Women’s Reproductive Rights in the United States*, “Fifteen states already have bans on abortion throughout pregnancy that may become enforceable if Roe is overturned ... [and] 11 states have laws on the books expressing an intention to outlaw abortion if Roe is overturned, or similar anti-choice policy positions.” In a U.S. News and World Report article, Nancy Northup, president of the Center of Reproductive Rights stated that, “What we’re seeing now is not just the chipping away at protections [provided under Roe, but a] full-scale attempt ... to re-criminalize abortion.”

*AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services and trusts that every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs. **Further, AAUW believes that these deeply personal decisions should be made without governmental interference.** For more information, please view AAUW’s position paper on reproductive rights.*

LAF-Supported Case Settles

After a decade, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and its head female soccer coach, Anson Dorrance, settled a lawsuit brought by Melissa Jennings, a former female soccer player. Jennings’ suit, brought under Title IX, alleged that the soccer coach had harassed and discriminated against her and that UNC personnel failed to address the issue. The terms of the settlement include a \$385,000 payment to Jennings and an agreement that North Carolina will revise its sexual harassment policies and procedures after an independent review. Inside Higher Ed reported that Dorrance recently acknowledge that he had engaged in “‘inappropriate and unacceptable’ behavior by participating in ‘group discussions of ... team members’ sexual activities.’” Despite the settlement, UNC continues to stand by Dorrance, stating that “[h]e is an outstanding worldwide ambassador for women’s sports, amateur athletics and the University of North Carolina.” Melissa Jennings was supported by the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Read more about her case.

AAUW has been in the forefront of sexual harassment research for more than a decade. AAUW’s research shows that sexual harassment on campus takes an especially heavy toll on young women; making it harder for them to get the education they need to take care of themselves and their families. Since 1981 the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has helped students, faculty, staff, and administrators in higher education challenge discriminatory practices such as sexual harassment, denial of tenure or promotion, pay inequity, and inequality in women’s athletics programs.

NCAA Supports Sports Diversity Research

The National Collegiate Athletic Association announced Thursday that they will support Texas A&M University's Laboratory for Diversity in Sport and its research into how athletic departments can increase diversity among employees, teams, and fans. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the lab studies the impact of diversity on college sports teams and athletics departments and recognizes top colleges and universities that excel in areas of diversity.

AAUW believes that Title IX's impact on women's athletic participation is one of the country's greatest success stories. It has changed the playing field dramatically for girls and women in sports. AAUW believes that expansion of athletic opportunities for girls and women must continue at both the high school and college levels. For more information, read AAUW's position paper on equity in school athletics.

Education Department Begins to Implement Student Aid Changes

The U.S. Department of Education recently took the first steps in implementing changes to federal student aid programs included in Congress' budget reconciliation legislation at the end of the last session. According to Inside Higher Ed, the department announced plans to convene two negotiating teams to develop regulations to carry out the changes. The Student Loan Committee will develop proposed regulations for federal student aid programs, including looking at issues related to loan repayment, loan forgiveness for public service employees, and relationships between colleges and lenders. The TEACH Grant Committee will focus on the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant program.

Changes on the Hill

Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour (R) on Monday appointed Representative Roger Wicker (R-MS) to temporarily replace Senator Trent Lott (R-MS), who resigned December 18. A special election will be held in November to determine who will fill the seat for the remaining five years of Lott's term. No date has been set for a special election to fill Wicker's seat in the House, but fellow House Republicans are already vying to fill his seat on the Appropriations Committee. Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ) was selected by Senate Republicans in December to replace Lott as the new minority whip, the party's second highest ranking position. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) will replace Kyl as Republican Party Conference chairman.

Representative Tom Lantos (D-CA) announced Wednesday that he will retire at the end of this term, revealing that he was recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Currently in his 14th term, Lantos is the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs committee.

Representative John Peterson (R-PA) announced Thursday that he will retire at the end of this term, citing family medical problems. Peterson holds a seat on the House Appropriations committee.

House Returns to Work

The House and Senate each met in a pro forma session on Thursday to begin the second session of the 110th Congress. The House is expected to return in full for business on Tuesday, January 15, with the Senate returning the following Tuesday, January 22. The President's State of the Union address will take place on Monday, January 28.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Spending Package Signed into Law

On December 26, President Bush signed the \$555 billion omnibus package that included the 11 remaining FY08 spending bills, Congressional Quarterly reported. The package (**H.R. 2764**) was closer to the President's requested levels of funding; however, the omnibus package funds Democratic domestic priorities at higher levels than the President's budget proposed while lowering the level of funding for the President's priorities. While Inside Higher Ed said that the bill disappointed college officials who had hoped for more funding on education programs, Democratic leaders pointed to increases in elementary and secondary education, vocational education, and student aid in the current bill over the President's proposed budget. See the Coalition on Human Needs' website for a full comparison of the President's proposal, the House proposal, and the Senate proposal for FY08 and the actual FY07 budget, and visit the House Appropriations Committee's website for full bill information.

Every Woman Counts Launches New Website

Lifetime Networks' Every Woman Counts campaign launched their new website this week and announced a host of new celebrity partnerships. The public service campaign, now in its fifth presidential cycle, is dedicated to encouraging women to speak out on the issues they care about most, vote, and run for office. Formed by Lifetime Networks in partnership with Hearst Magazines REDBOOK, CosmoGIRL!, and Marie Claire, the Every Woman Counts coalition comprises leading national nonprofit organizations such as AAUW.

Michigan Primary Recap; Nevada and South Carolina on Deck

Voters across Michigan cast their ballots in the state's primary recently. On the Republican side, former Governor Mitt Romney (MA) took the top slot with 39 percent of the vote, followed by Senator John McCain (AZ) with 30 percent and former Governor Mike Huckabee (AR) with 16 percent. Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY), the only Democratic front-runner on the ballot, took 55 percent of the vote. The other top-tier candidates removed their names from the ballot at the request of the Democratic National Committee, which earlier stripped the state of its delegates for the decision to break party rules and schedule its primary early. Forty percent of Michigan Democratic voters, including many supporters of Senator Barack Obama (IL) and former Senator John Edwards (NC), voted "uncommitted" on the ballot.

CNN reported that women made up 44 percent of Republican voters overall in Michigan and that 39 percent of those voters supported former Governor Mitt Romney, compared with the 29 percent who supported Senator John McCain. Women made up 57 percent of Democratic voters overall, with 60 percent of women supporting Senator Clinton and 36 percent of women voting in the "uncommitted" category.

Single Women Becoming a Force for the Democratic Party

Recent research has shown that unmarried women vote Democratic more frequently than women overall and are increasingly becoming more involved in politics. As a result, single women are being viewed as a growing force for the Democratic Party. If this trend continues, single women could shift the current political landscape, Women's eNews reported. This growing influence is one that both parties and all candidates should be aware of. According to a study conducted by Women's Voice, Women Vote, a group organized to mobilize single women to voting booths, ***unmarried women are currently the most dissatisfied voting bloc in the country.***

This is reflected in their growth in participation in politics. These findings are significant, especially in light of recent census data, which found that 46 percent of voting-age women nationwide are unmarried, but only made up 22.4 percent of the electorate in 2004. In addition, the study found that single women made up between 22 and 28 percent of the Democratic vote in New Hampshire and Iowa, compared to 12 percent of the Republican vote in New Hampshire. Growing participation by unmarried women could prove to be a pivotal factor in the upcoming election.

ACTION: AAUW encourages you to start preparing now to ensure women's voices and issues are heard on Election Day, November 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. ***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 109th Congress to find out how your elected officials voted on issues important to women and girls.

UNIQUELY AAUW

AAUW Releases Report on Title IX at 35

The National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, chaired by AAUW, will host a congressional briefing on Wednesday, January 23, to release their new report, Title IX at 35: Beyond the Headlines. For 35 years, Title IX has prohibited sex discrimination in education programs that receive federal financial assistance, opening the doors for women to become doctors, lawyers, and professional athletes. However, much work remains to be done. The new report goes beyond the media headlines to discuss how Title IX has affected athletics, career and technical education, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education, and sexual harassment in schools, and presents recommendations from the experts on how to reach equity in education. AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz will lead the briefing.

2007 Every Member Poll Deadline January 25

The 2005 Every Member Poll received a record number of responses from members. All members are encouraged to make their voices heard again as a continued important investment in AAUW's future. Simply complete the 2007 AAUW Every Member Poll before January 25. It's now available online at http://www.aauw.org/member_center/poll/index.cfm.