

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 MARCH 2008

CALENDAR

March 1, Saturday	Deadline for Recognition Award
March 4, Tuesday	Book Group, 7:00 PM “Benazir Bhutto: Daughter of Destiny” Home of Pat Laidler
March 6, Thursday	Deadline for Cape Codder Hotel, Hyannis Reservations at AAUW rate
March 11, Tuesday	Branch Meeting, 7:00 PM Thayer Public Library, Braintree
March 25, Tuesday	Board Meeting. 7:00 PM Home of Sharon Lemoff
March 26, Wednesday	Registration deadline for AAUW-MA Spring Convention
March 27, Thursday	Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM Home of Sharon Lemoff
April 3, Thursday	Writers Group, 7:30 PM Brewed Awakening, Hingham
April 4, Friday	Pre-Convention Fun at the Cape Codder, Hyannis
April 5-6, Saturday Sunday	AAUW-MA Spring Conference & Annual Meeting Cape Codder Hotel, Hyannis
April 15, Tuesday	Girls Game Night, 7:00 PM Home of Hollie Bagley

BRANCH MEETING

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 11, at 7:00 PM in the Logan Auditorium of Thayer Public Library at 798 Washington Street in Braintree. The speaker will be Margaret Lamberts Bendroth, historian,



author, and Executive Director of the Congregational Library in Boston. She will speak on “The Nineteenth Century Woman: A Historian’s View from the Twenty-First Century”

The Nineteenth century saw many changes in the way women experienced and understood their place in everyday life. Hear Dr. Bendroth speak on how these women’s aspirations shaped the forces of feminism and social change in America.



Dr. Bendroth is the author of several books including: “Fundamentalism & Gender, 1875 to the Present,” “Growing up Protestant: Parents, Children, and Mainline Churches,” and “Fundamentalists in the City: Conflict and Division in Boston's Churches, 1885-1950.” She has written numerous articles on women and religion. Before coming to the Congregational Library, Dr. Bendroth served as Professor of History at Calvin College in Michigan, specializing in twentieth-century history, women’s history, and the history of American religion. She has taught courses in the Beacon Hill Seminars program, Boston Center for Adult Education, Northeastern University, and Andover-Newton Theological School.

Dr. Bendroth received her AB in history from Cornell, her MA in church history from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and her PhD in American history from John Hopkins.

As usual, the program is free and open to the public, so bring your friends.

Directions to Thayer Public Library

Take Route 3 to the Union Street Exit (exit 17). If exiting from the north, enter the rotary at the end of the ramp and take the first right, which is Union Street.

If exiting from the south, enter the rotary at the end of the ramp and take the third right - also Union Street. Go straight through the first set of lights up to the lights at the end of Union Street, which forms a "T" intersection with Washington Street. (Thayer Academy faces the intersection).

Turn left onto Washington Street and go straight through an immediate traffic light. The library, a red brick building with a tower, is on the left, two blocks from the intersection of Union and Washington, directly across from Town Hall and French's Common. Limited Library parking is accessible from Washington Street at the far end of the building. You are encouraged to use the Braintree Town Hall parking lot directly across the street from the Library. The auditorium is on the second floor.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

“Challenges in a New Land” the topic of the Winter Conference at UMASS-Lowell was very inspiring. Eleven members from Hingham went to the conference to hear a panel of speakers who related their personal experiences as immigrants or stories of the lives of the immigrant people they know. We learned about African and Cambodian life in their new world. One of the speakers related the need for a greater understanding of the human connection not just the end result. We need to bring people together to help them succeed, so they can better themselves. There are a lot of organizations in Lowell that work with the people in the city to help them attain their goals. We ended the day with a gathering of AAUW members at the Dubliner for a great lunch. If you weren't able to go with us to Lowell think about joining us for the MA-Spring Conference, April 5-6 in Hyannis. "It's All About the Money" is the topic of the conference. At the evening dinner an LAF litigant will be speaking. What a wonderful place to have a meeting in the spring with great restaurants and shopping venues available to us. We hope you will be able to join us. We are already planning car pools and roommates, so let us know if you plan to come.

Our next meeting will be at Thayer Library on March 11th. Claudette's friend Margaret Bendroth will be talking about "The 19th Century Woman" from a historical perspective. It should be an interesting evening. I hope to see you all there.

Sheila

AAUW-MA SPRING CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

We are excited about the **AAUW-MA Spring Convention and Annual Meeting** coming up shortly on April 5 and 6 at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa in Hyannis. Plans are shaping up for an exciting conference on Saturday entitled, "It's All About the Money." Although the agenda is not yet set in stone we hope to have an update on the status of women in Massachusetts and an overview of the Educational Foundation's pay gap research and current wage equity projects. Afternoon sessions will touch on mom's economic security, the hidden costs of care, intellectual property rights and identity theft. We will end the day with the LAF banquet featuring an LAF litigant, a coach who lost his job defending women's right to participate in sports. He recently won his case.

On Sunday, in addition to being treated to a guest speaker, author Kate Whouley, we will hold our annual meeting during which the election and installation of new officers take place and awards will be given to branches and outstanding members (start thinking).

Additional information will be published in the upcoming *BayStater* and posted online on the state website (www.aauw-ma.org), but we wanted to give you a heads-up so that you could begin planning to attend the event. Because the deadline for submission of articles to the *BayStater* is March 1, it is especially **important to know that the special rate for rooms at the Cape Codder will end on March 6th—before the publication of the *BayStater*.** When making hotel reservations (888 297-2200) be sure to mention AAUW. Rooms are discounted to \$127 plus tax for a room with two double beds—a "deluxe double." Although there are elevators to the conference rooms, there are no elevators to the second floor rooms so you might want to request a first floor room. The Cape Codder offers an indoor wave pool, a fitness center and a full-service spa, so dig out your bathing suit. Why not combine a little AAUW business with a mini-vacation? In fact, plans are underway to have some "fun" on Friday for the early arrivals. Check out the Cape Codder Resort and Spa at <http://www.capecodderhotel.com/index.php>.

Looking forward to seeing you in April,
Your Spring Convention Planners

PAMELA J. LINCOLN RECOGNITION AWARD

Applications for the Pamela J. Lincoln Recognition Award are available now, but are due by March 1, 2007. For more information or to receive an application please contact Patricia McKay (781-337-3375)

WRITERS GROUP

The Writers Group will meet on Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 PM at Brewed Awakening in Hingham Square.

GIRLS GAME NIGHT

The game girls will meet on Thursday, March 27 at the home of Sharon Lemoff and on Tuesday, April 15 at the home of Hollie Bagley.

EF and LAF

If you send EF or LAF donations to the Association, please send a copy of the form or an e-mail to the State EF or LAF chair so that you may be recognized.

BOOK GROUP

The Hingham Branch Book Group would like to extend an invitation to **ALL** members to join us at our next discussion. We'll be talking about Benazir Bhutto's autobiography, Daughter of Destiny. We'll meet on Tuesday, March 4, at 7 PM at Pat Laidler's home, Hanover.

Please join us, whether or not you've finished the book, to discuss this timely topic.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We are thrilled to add two new members to our branch. Both joined at our February branch program taking advantage of both the **Shape the Future** discount and half-year dues. Our March branch program is the last opportunity this year to take advantage of this incredible bargain. Imagine joining AAUW for only \$24.25! Beginning March 16 new members will pay next year's dues (\$75) and get the rest of this year free. Please continue to think about people you know who should join AAUW and invite them to the March meeting. When we think of the 19th century woman, we have come a long way, but our journey is not yet finished. The 19th century woman advocated for women's rights in her way and we are continuing to advocate for women's rights. Each time we add a member, the AAUW voice for women and girls becomes stronger and our branch becomes more visible in the community.

And speaking of being visible in the community, the national AAUW website (www.aauw.org) has added a new online blog. Ann Gustafson, AAUW Membership Chair, explains it this way, "A what you say? Think of a column on the op-ed page of a newspaper, where people often respond to another's viewpoint with comments. On a website, a blog is a similar thing, where entries are displayed in reverse chronological order. Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries. AAUW's blog focuses on mission-based issues of importance to women. Written by staff and volunteers – what's really great about this is that it's a perfect tool for spreading the word about AAUW throughout the internet community as it is available to anyone!"

Check it out. You might even be inspired to add a comment or two. On Valentine's Day, Christy Jones wrote about her passion—for equity. Here's the link: <http://blog-aauw.org/2008/02/14/my-passion/>. The AAUW blog and its comments are open to the general public and the more we share about AAUW issues – the more we get individuals interested and even joining!

Let's welcome our new members who read locally about our AAUW issues and joined:

Shirley Rydell

Boston University Ed.D '80 (Vocational Education)

Ruth Cooper

Simmons BSN (Nursing)



Diane Morash invited Ruth to the February meeting and Ruth joined on the spot.

Hollie Bagley and Patricia McKay

DIRECTORY UPDATES



Several new members have been added to the branch directory distributed in September. If you would like an updated version in PFD format sent to you electronically, let Hollie know via email at hollie@gallivan.org.

PUBLIC POLICY

Equal Pay Day in Massachusetts: April 22nd, 2008

On Equal Pay Day 2007 AAUW redefined the debate on pay equity and reenergized the drive to pass further needed pay equity legislation. Because of the advocacy of AAUW members, a majority of members of the House promptly cosponsored the **Paycheck Fairness Act**. Then, in May, the Supreme Court delivered a blow to pay equity with their decision on Ledbetter v. Goodyear. The House responded by promptly passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, but almost a year later the Senate still hasn't passed companion legislation and neither chamber has advanced the Paycheck Fairness Act. After reinvigorating the movement, pay equity hasn't just been stymied, it's been set back. *Equal Pay Day 2008 is coming up on April 22, and AAUW needs to make this the biggest Equal Pay Day yet. Inform yourself and attend the demonstration if you can. Or check out your earning power by going to The WAGE Project. The WAGE Project, Inc is an organization established for one purpose: to end discrimination against women in the American workplace in the near future.* www.wageproject.org/

Settlement Reached in Third Fresno State Discrimination Case

Former Fresno State women's basketball coach Stacy Johnson-Klein said Wednesday that she will accept the \$6.6 million reduced award in her sex discrimination case against the school, the Fresno Bee reported. As reported in the December 7 edition of Washington Update, a jury had previously awarded her \$19.1 million after finding that the university had discriminated and retaliated against her. A Fresno County Superior Court judge has reduced the award, and Johnson-Klein was given the option of agreeing to the settlement or facing the possibility of a new trial. Fresno State and California State University have until March 8 to decide if they will appeal. The jury's December decision was the third time in the previous five months that the school was forced or agreed to pay in a sexual discrimination case. In July, the sexual discrimination trial of Fresno State's former volleyball coach ended with a nearly \$6 million verdict against the school, and the university settled another sexual discrimination case brought by their former associate athletic director for \$3.5 million in October. 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.

AP Tests Reveal Gender Gap

An article in Inside Higher Ed reported the findings of recently released data by the College Board regarding advanced proficiency tests, which colleges and universities frequently use to provide college credit for high school courses. This data includes significant findings in regard to gender and test taking. According to the data, the majority of students taking humanities-based AP tests are female. For example, 71 percent of students taking the AP exam in French literature and 64 percent of students taking the AP exam in English literature and composition are female. AP classes in the "soft" sciences seem to be equally appealing to male and female students, with females making up 58 percent of those taking the biology exam and 47 percent of those taking the chemistry exam. However, males continue to dominate computer science and physics AP courses, with females only making up 17 percent and 22 percent of test takers, respectively. In addition, there were major

differences in percentage of test takers and performance when the data was broken down by race. Although improvements have been made, a gender gap obviously still exists in the AP environment.

ACTION: AAUW remains committed to strong academic principles that will adequately prepare all students for success. In addition, AAUW strongly supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. Teaching children about science during their early years is critical not only to improving subject matter competency but also sparking and maintaining students' interest in these fields. This is especially valuable for young girls, who have been shown to lose interest in STEM subjects by junior high school. If you haven't yet done so, please use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist online to urge your representative to support the inclusion of science as a required area of assessment under the No Child Left Behind Act's measurement of adequate yearly progress (AYP). Visit the AAUW website to learn more about AAUW's position on No Child Left Behind, which governs elementary and secondary education.

Women's College Rethinks Engineering

As the first women's college to offer an engineering degree, Smith College in Massachusetts is leading the way to develop an innovative engineering curriculum that could change the structure of engineering studies at schools across the nation. By emphasizing communication, ethics, and the solutions that engineering can bring to humanity's problems, Smith hopes to be able to change statistics reflected in a new report by the National Science Board that show that women receive only 20 percent of bachelor's degrees in engineering. According to the Christian Science Monitor, much of the credit for Smith's program, which has attained a 90 percent retention rate over the last decade, belongs to Professor Glenn Ellis. Ellis was recently named Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and is currently writing an engineering-themed novel for adolescent girls.

Changes on the Hill

Representative Tom Lantos (D-CA) passed away at the age of 80. Lantos, who has served in Congress since 1981, announced last month that he had esophageal cancer. In addition to serving as the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, he was a founding co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and repeatedly received a 100 percent score in AAUW's Congressional Voting Record. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA) has set April 8 as the date for a special primary election to fill Representative Lantos' seat. Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ) announced Tuesday that he will not seek reelection to the House at the end of his current term. Shadegg is speculated to be considering running for the Senate in 2010 if Senator John McCain (R-AZ) wins the presidential election this year.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

President Signs Economic Stimulus Package

President Bush signed into law an economic stimulus package intended to address concerns about the slowing U.S. economy. As Congressional Quarterly reports, the Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act of 2008 (H.R. 5140) was a compromise between the previously passed House version and a broader Senate package that fell one vote shy of passage on last week. The final bill expands upon the original legislation to include Social Security and disability benefits in the minimum income requirement, allowing millions of low-income seniors and disabled veterans, who would not be eligible under the original House package, to receive rebates. The final bill does not include the extended unemployment benefits, renewable energy tax breaks, or low-income home heating assistance that Senate Democrats had hoped for. Rebate checks are expected to make their way to recipients by late spring. For more details about the bill, see the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Senate Holds Hearing on FMLA; AAUW Submits Comments of Support

In honor of the anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act being signed into law, the Senate Children and Families Subcommittee of the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee held a hearing titled “Writing the Next Chapter of the Family and Medical Leave Act – Building on a Fifteen Year History of Support for Workers”. Topics for discussion included proposed legislation that would guarantee workers paid time off and regulations to the FMLA proposed by the U.S. Department of Labor. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) discussed his support for the FMLA and expanding the law to include provisions from his bill, the Family Leave Insurance Act (S. 1681), which he introduced with Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) last year. The legislation would set up an insurance fund, and money from the fund would be used to provide employees with eight weeks of paid family and medical leave. In addition, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) used this opportunity to voice his commitment to moving the legislation. Senators Dodd, Kennedy, and Patty Murray (D-WA) all expressed concern over several regulations proposed by the Department of Labor, stating that they thought these regulations would make it more difficult for workers to take advantage of the benefits afforded to them in the FMLA. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), the only Republican senator present at the hearing, expressed his support for both the FMLA and some of the proposed regulations. AAUW submitted comments to the committee in support of the FMLA and will be submitting comments on the regulations to the Department of Labor. Hearings originally scheduled for Thursday in the House Workforce Protections Subcommittee of the Education and Labor Committee were postponed, but are expected to be held at a later date.

While the FMLA has been an enormous gain for millions of workers, millions of Americans still do not have the option of taking time off to care for family members or themselves without putting their jobs, their healthcare benefits, or their family stability at risk. AAUW believes that creating work environments that help employees balance the responsibilities of work and family is good public policy—good for workers, good for families, and good for business.

As reported by USA Today and in the Feb. 2, 2007 edition of Washington Update, a study by Harvard and McGill University researchers found the United States lags far behind virtually all wealthy countries with regard to family-oriented workplace policies such as maternity leave and paid sick days. ***The study grouped the U.S. with Lesotho, Liberia, Swaziland and Papua New Guinea for the distinction of not guaranteeing some form of paid maternity leave.***

ACTION: AAUW advocated for the FMLA for nearly a decade and has long supported flexible workplace policies to address the family responsibilities of employees. If you haven’t already done so, use AAUW’s Two-Minute Activist online to urge your representative and your senators to support the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 1542/S. 910), which would provide 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. For more information, read AAUW’s position paper on family-friendly workplaces.

RESOURCES FOR ADVOCATES

Potomac Primary, Other States Weigh In

Voters in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Nebraska, Kansas, Washington, Louisiana, and Maine cast their vote in primaries and caucuses. During these contests, former Governor John McCain (AR) solidified his lead on the Republican side, and Senator Barack Obama (IL) emerged as the leader for the Democratic Party. However, the delegates awarded during these contests have yet to confirm a nominee on either side. Thus far, Senator Obama has been awarded 1259 delegates, compared to Senator Hillary Clinton’s (NY) 1212 delegates, and former Governor McCain has been awarded 830, compared to Governor Mike Huckabee’s (AK) 217, according to a CNN delegate count. To win the nomination, a Democratic candidate must receive the votes of 2,025 delegates and a Republican candidate must receive the votes of 1,191 delegates. In addition to those

delegates selected during the primaries and caucuses, the Democratic Party also uses 796 superdelegates (party members of the House and Senate, Democratic governors, former House and Senate party leaders, and Democratic National Committee dignitaries). According to the Salt Lake Tribune, Senator Clinton has received the support of 243 superdelegates, compared to 156 who support Senator Obama. The rest remain uncommitted. On the Republican side, former Governor Mitt Romney has stated that he will endorse Senator McCain, releasing his 280 delegates and asking them to support the Republican frontrunner, according to the Associated Press.

According to CNN, exit polls out of Virginia and Maryland showed that Senator Obama won roughly 60 percent of the female Democratic vote, a demographic that has supported Senator Clinton in past primaries. Senator Clinton maintained her support among white women, who voted for her over Senator Obama by 10 points in Virginia and 13 points in Maryland .

The Democratic primary in Hawaii and primaries for both parties in Wisconsin are up next. The CQ Politics 2008 Primary Guide has a complete list of primary dates, delegate counts, candidate profiles, and articles to help you follow the primaries.

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. 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.

Attend the Women's Equality Day Summit

You have an opportunity to participate in a public policy conference and lobby day in Washington , D.C. with other AAUW members and AAUW coalition partners. The Women's Equality Summit and Congressional Action Day will bring together hundreds of women leaders and their allies for two days of issue briefings, training sessions, and face-to-face meetings with members of Congress and national women leaders. The Summit will be held in Washington, D.C. on March 10-11. The Summit is a project of the National Council of Women's Organizations, the largest coalition of women's groups in the country, and the Younger Women's Task Force, the grassroots movement that engages women in their 20's and 30's to act on the issues that matter most to them. AAUW is a member of NCWO. The work of AAUW builds upon a century of responsible public participation, and AAUW encourages women to get involved and take action on issues important to them. This is a great opportunity to make your voice heard on Capitol Hill on issues you care about, and represent AAUW to congressional leaders and women from around the country. For more information, visit the NCWO's website or call Elizabeth at 202-293-4505.

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 email alert system that anyone with an email 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.

More and more of AAUW's historical resources are now available online. The Congressional Voting Record is available as far back as the 97th Congress (1981-1983). Archives of Washington Update are now online back to the beginning of 2006.

UNIQUELY AAUW

AAUW Congressional Voting Record Released

The American Association of University Women has released its Congressional Voting Record for the 110th Congress, First Session, which provides AAUW members and the public with critical information about how their members of Congress voted on equity issues affecting women and girls in 2007. This year, AAUW is pleased that more than half the representatives and senators supported AAUW's position on at least 80 percent of the votes that were scored.

The Congressional Voting Record scores the votes on several pieces of legislation that became law, including bills that provided for an increase in the minimum wage; the largest increase in student aid since the G.I. bill; and investment in science, technology, engineering, and math education. In addition, the publication scores legislation that reflects other AAUW priorities such as improving pay discrimination law, expanding hate crimes prevention, and protecting access to reproductive health care.

AAUW Launches New Blog

AAUW recently launched an online blog, AAUW Dialog, to provide timely commentary on current news and events and the way they relate to AAUW's mission. Share your thoughts and stay up-to-date on all the latest news by visiting the blog regularly at <http://blog-aauw.org> or subscribing to the AAUW blog RSS feed.

Support College Women Student Leaders

AAUW and NASPA are once again partnering to present the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, which will take place June 5–7, 2008, at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Scholarships to the conference are a great way for branches and states to support college women student leaders. Learn more about this exciting opportunity to encourage leadership development among women college students.

Progress in Equity Award Applications Due March 14

Each year the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's Progress in Equity Award recognizes a college or university program that has resulted in significant progress for women on campus. Recipients receive a stipend of up to \$10,000 and public recognition throughout their communities, campus, and AAUW. You can find more information and an application on the web site at <http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf/awards/pie.cfm>.