

# AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

President: Sheila Doherty (781) 848-8122  
Membership VPs: Deanne Noiseux (781) 545-5247 and Patricia Laidler (781) 878-6242  
Program VP: Carol Sullivan-Hanley (781) 545-9341

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      MAY 2011

### MAY/JUNE 2011 CALENDAR

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| May 7, Saturday    | Book Group<br><i>The Heretic's Daughter</i> by Kathleen Kent<br>RSVP: Carol Sullivan-Hanley                         |
| May 10, Tuesday    | Annual Dinner 6:30 PM<br><b>Reggio's</b> , Washington Street (RT 53), Norwell<br>RSVP: Susan Mahan for reservations |
| May 26, Thursday   | Girls Game Night 7:00 PM<br>Home of Hollie Bagley   |
| June 1, Wednesday  | 2011-2012 Dues should be paid to Sandy Carle  |
| June 7, Tuesday    | Program Meeting 7:00 PM<br><b>Panera Bread</b> , Derby Street Shoppes, Hingham                                      |
| June 8, Wednesday  | Book Group 7:00 PM<br><i>Chef</i> by Singh<br>Home of Nancy Yellin  |
| June 16-19         | National Convention, Washington, D.C.   |
| June 23, Wednesday | Board Meeting 7:00 PM (note change of date)<br>Home of Hollie Bagley  |

### HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE SUMMER

**The May banquet will be held on May 10 at 6:30 pm Reggio's Restaurant in Norwell.**

We will be having a buffet that includes fresh Italian bread and butter, house salad with homemade dressing, penne marinara, chicken parmigiana and meatballs. There will be a coffee and tea station, and trays of pastries for dessert. **Other beverages must be paid for in cash that night.** I will need people to send me a check made out to "AAUW Hingham" for \$25.00. Please send it to me at 18 Grove Street, E. Weymouth, MA 02189.

Please contact me if you have any questions. *I hope to see you all there!*

Susan Mahan, Social Committee

*Reggio Ristorante & Catering  
42 Washington Street (Route 53)  
Norwell, MA 02061  
781 - 982 - 5505*

*\*We are located just seconds from the Jct. of Route 228 & Route 53 which is Queen Anne's Corner on the Hingham / Norwell border*

**From Boston & points north:**

Take Route 93 south to Route 3 south. Take exit # 14 off Route 3. At end of exit, go to light and turn left (at Home Depot). Go to third light and turn right onto Route 53 south. Go 1/8 of a mile to Reggio Ristorante on the right side. (We are between Citizen's Bank & Taco Bell).

**From Plymouth and points south:**

Take Route 3 north to exit # 14. Go right off the exit. Go to next light and turn right onto Route 53 south. Go 1/8 of a mile to Reggio Ristorante on the right side (We are between Citizen's Bank & Taco Bell).

**From Framingham and points west:**

Take 128 south to the end until it turns into 93 north. Stay on this for a short while until the junction of Route 3, then take Route 3 south (towards Cape Cod). Take exit # 14 off Route 3. At end of exit, go to light and turn left (at Home Depot). Go to third light and turn right onto Route 53 south. Go 1/8 of a mile to Reggio Ristorante on the right side (We are between Citizen's Bank & Taco Bell).

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

As my term as Branch President comes to an end in June, I want to thank everyone for all of the kindness, care and support they have given me in this past four years. It has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience and I have learned a lot about AAUW and its wonderful members. Whether it be issues such as equal pay or Title IX, we have just begun to have our voices heard. Don't forget our Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

On a local note our May dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 10th at 6:30 PM. The venue is Reggios' in Norwell. I hope to see you all then as it is our last meeting of the year. Please RSVP, Susan Mahan, before May 6th, if you plan on attending.

See you there.

Sheila Doherty

**ADVENTURES IN DINING**

The group did not make it to Orta in April, so we are planning to meet at Orta on Tuesday, May 24, at 6:30 PM. Spring is here!

Sondra Schmidt  
[beesnees@comcast.net](mailto:beesnees@comcast.net)

Your 2011-2012 dues bill is included on the last page of this newsletter.

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

### **April 20<sup>th</sup>: AAUW hosted a phone conference on the topic “We Observed Equal Pay Day -- Now What?”**

The conference call provided interested parties an opportunity to catch up on the actual situation in Washington DC and be informed regarding the progress of the fight for equal pay for women. Principally, the re-introduction of the Paycheck Fairness Act was discussed and the urgent request was made that we write to our representatives and senators to ask that they co-sponsor the bill. In the house, the bill is HR1519 and in the senate, it is listed as S797. Currently there are 167 co-sponsors in the house and 27 co-sponsors in the senate. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) were responsible for re-introducing the Paycheck Fairness Act., which would strengthen laws preventing pay discrimination such as by forbidding employers from retaliating against workers who discuss or disclose wage practices.

A second bill was also discussed, called the Fair Pay Act, which covers the problem of gender based job segregation. An aspirational bill, it was introduced by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and is listed as HR1493 in the house and S788 in the senate.

The Fair Pay Act would allow challenges to gender discrimination between sex-segregated jobs. As always, the primary offensive method is to write or call your representatives and senators regarding these bills and demand that they co-sponsor and support these legislative efforts. If they do not know your wants and needs they cannot work to fulfill them. Please inform them that you, like men, need money to survive and that equal work deserves equal pay.

**Goodyear Ordered To Pay Damages in Sex Discrimination Suit:** recently, a Cumberland County (NC) jury unanimously ordered Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. to pay \$450,000 in compensatory damages to Lashanda Shaw, a former employee who sued the company for wrongful termination. Shaw was fired after filing a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against her supervisor for frequent harassment.

**AAUW Equal Pay Day Article Published by The Hill:** Earlier an article on the importance of Equal Pay Day and the Paycheck Fairness Act by AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz was published by the notable congressional blog, The Hill. In the article, Lisa underscores the financial situation of working women in the U.S. and the vital provisions included in the legislation.

**President Vows to Fight for Pell Grants:** President Barack Obama spoke at the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College to reiterate his plans for curbing the national deficit. Among the president’s talking points, he indicated that he would oppose Republican budget plans to reduce Pell Grants available to students from coast to coast.

**Tax Rate Has Declined for Richest Americans:** As debate continues over the best ways to tackle deficit reduction, much of the focus has been on cutting spending rather than increasing revenue. However, President Obama said last week that he intends to allow existing tax breaks for the wealthy to expire, bringing in an addition \$1 trillion over the next 12 years.

Over the past few decades, Americans in the highest income bracket have paid fewer taxes over time, dramatically reducing the money taken in by the federal government. The average federal income tax rate for the 400 highest adjusted gross incomes in the US has declined from 26 percent in 1992 all the way to 17 percent today. Thanks to excessive tax breaks, almost half of all households will pay no federal income taxes at all, according to the Tax Policy Center.

**Women Win Pay Discrimination Suit Against Virginia Tech:** a U.S. District Court jury ruled in favor of two female Virginia Tech fundraisers who sued the school for pay discrimination. The jury found evidence of wage discrimination between men and women with similar jobs at Virginia Tech and awarded the women back pay and retaliation compensation. The school has not yet determined if it will appeal the decision. Another pending suit against Virginia Tech for failing to properly address reports of sexual harassment during business travel is set for trial in June.

**New Legislation to Fight Campus Sexual Assault:** New legislation was introduced to better combat sexual assault on college campuses. Sponsored by Sens. Robert Casey (D-PA) and Patty Murray (D-WA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (S. 834) expands existing federal law on campus crime reporting requirements to include sexual violence. Major provisions of the bill include requiring schools to offer sexual violence prevention programs, to define sexual consent, to report sexual violence in their annual crime reports, and to provide victims with written information regarding their rights and the school resources available to them. The legislation comes in response to the Department of Education's guidance on Title IX cases involving sexual assault on campuses.

**House Leaders Under Scrutiny for Spending Amidst Budget Cuts:** After weeks of playing chicken with who can cut the most from the U.S. budget, House leaders have approved a \$500,000 contract (at \$520 per hour) to defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act. The move comes in reaction to the president's instruction for the Department of Justice not to defend a key part of the 1996 law. Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) has proposed taking funds from the Justice Department's budget to neutralize the "burden of defending DOMA."

**Grassroots, Legislative Efforts Defending Women's Health:** AAUW joined coalition partners on stage during the 'Stand Up for Women's Health Rally' on the National Mall. Members of Congress, activists, and cancer survivors spoke to the crowd of thousands about the direct threats funding cuts pose to women's health programs.

Previously, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) led a group of 41 senators, the number needed to filibuster, in a pledge to stop spending bills that would defund Planned Parenthood. The senators (39 Democrats and 2 Independents) signed onto a letter stating their opposition to the House's proposed cuts to Title X and Planned Parenthood funding. Since January, proposed House budget cuts have zeroed in on Title X funding that provides health and family-planning services for low-income women and men; legislators have specifically singled out Planned Parenthood, the main administrator of Title X services. Such cuts, based more on ideology than fiscal restraint, risk the health of the millions of women who rely on Title X and Planned Parenthood for family planning, birth control, and lifesaving preventive care like HIV and STI testing.

**National Focus on Gender-Based Violence, Sexual Harassment:** the Department of Education hosted the National Summit on Gender-Based Violence Among Young People, a two day gathering of federal, organizational, and educational leaders to discuss intimate partner violence, dating violence, sexual harassment, and sexual assault. The summit focused on developing a comprehensive federal strategy to address these issues by highlighting promising practices and discussing how best to convert research into practice.

Recently, Yale University has served as a stark reminder of the need for change. Yale students and alumni filed a Title IX complaint claiming the university's "inadequate response to a long trend of public sexual harassment," and the existence of a "sexually hostile environment" on campus. AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz was sought out as an expert by numerous news organizations

### **College Counselors Facing Larger Caseloads, Larger Pay Gap**

: An extensive national survey of college and university counseling center directors shows that the number of students suffering from "severe psychological problems" is increasing, with anxiety exceeding

depression as the most common issue dealt with. Female students, in particular, struggled with emotional health, reporting levels of good emotional health 13 percent lower than their male peers last year. While three-fifths of all counseling center directors are female, the survey found their salaries were significantly lower than their male counterparts', controlling for factors like type of institution and experience. On average, female counseling center directors make nine percent less per year than their male counterparts, with a staggering gap of 19 percent among those with four to six years of experience.

**GAO Releases Report on Veterans' Education:** According to a new Government Accountability Office report, the Department of Veterans' Affairs needs to improve the outreach and support it provides to recipients of veterans' education benefits. GAO recommendations include developing stronger program performance measures, improving the VA's hotline and "Right Now Web" service, and strengthening outreach to veterans and service members with disabilities. The proposed changes aim to clarify and help students through the process of understanding the complex post-9/11 G.I. Bill.

**Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz tapped for DNC Chair:** President Barack Obama chose Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) to serve as chair of the Democratic National Committee. If the DNC ratifies Wasserman Schultz, she will be the first woman elected to the position. Two women have previously served as chair, but both were appointed. If elected, Wasserman Schultz will maintain her seat in the House of Representatives as she leads the Democratic party's 2012 efforts.

**ACLU's Cheeky Response to Florida Legislators:** the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida launched a facetious website to help women "incorporate" their uterus. The site is a response to the criticism state Rep. Scott Randolph (D) received when he noted that that the same people eager to regulate women's bodies avoid regulating business at all costs.

AAUW 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, and further believes that these deeply personal decisions should be made without governmental interference.

**New Title IX Guidance on Sexual Violence Announced:** Vice-President Joe Biden and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced new Department of Education guidelines to make clear to schools their obligation to prevent and respond to sexual violence under Title IX's provisions on sexual harassment. Title IX is a federal civil rights law that forbids gender-based discrimination in schools. The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights enforces compliance.

2011-2012 Dues bill—next page

# American Association of University Women--Hingham Area Branch

Its membership renewal time again! **Renewal deadline is June 1, 2011 for 2011-2012**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Undergraduate College/Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate College/Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Renew your AAUW membership by sending a check made out to: AAUW - Hingham Area Branch

And mail to: Sandra Carle, 12 Karlyn Road, Weymouth, MA 02188

|                  |                |  |
|------------------|----------------|--|
| Association Dues | \$49.00        | Includes subscription to <i>AAUW Outlook</i> |
| State Dues       | \$15.00        | Includes subscription to <i>BayStater</i>    |
| Branch Dues      | <u>\$11.00</u> | Includes subscription to <i>News of Note</i> |
| Total Dues:      | \$75.00        |  |

Life Members: \$26.00

*Voluntary Contributions:*

AAUW Funds  
Educational Foundation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Advocacy Fund  
(minimum suggested  
donation \$5.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Recognition Award \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Skills you could share with AAUW

\_\_\_ Bookkeeping \_\_\_ Webdesign/Maintenance \_\_\_ Program Presentation \_\_\_ Computer Skills  
\_\_\_ Editing and Writing Articles \_\_\_ Graphic Design \_\_\_ Other Area (please  
list) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to attend any of the interest groups?

\_\_\_ Book Club \_\_\_ Game Night \_\_\_ Dining Out \_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_ Declutter  
Bugs \_\_\_ Knitting

\_\_\_ Other interest you might like to see (Please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with your dues by June 1, 2011! Thank You!**