

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

President: Sheila Doherty (781) 848-8122
Membership VPs: Patricia McKay (781) 337-3375 and Patricia Laidler (781) 878-6242
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 NOVEMBER 2008

CALENDAR

November 4, Tuesday	Election Day
November 6, Thursday	Writers Group, 7 PM Brewed Awakenings, Hingham
November 11, Tuesday	Girls Game Night, 7 PM Home of Hollie Bagley
November 18, Tuesday	Branch Meeting, 7 PM Hingham High School-Media Center "Readiness Project/Revamping Education in Massachusetts"
November 20, Thursday	DeClutterBugs , 4:30 PM Panera Bread, Derby Street Shops, Hingham
November 20, Thursday	Adventures in Dining, 6:30 PM, Hola, 10 Library Plaza, (aka 1849 Ocean Street) Marshfield RSVP to Hollie, holliebagley@gmail.com or 781 749-6274
December 4, Thursday	Writers Group, 7 PM Home of Susan Mahan
December 14, Sunday	Holiday Social Mill Wharf, Scituate

BRANCH MEETING

The Readiness Project: Revamping Public Education in Massachusetts
Tuesday, November 18, 7 pm, Hingham High School Library



Is public education in Massachusetts preparing students for success in the 21st century? This is a question that should be of concern to every AAUW member, educator, parent and taxpayer. It is also a concern of Governor Duval Patrick. He commissioned the Commonwealth Readiness Project, a nine months study by a group of educators, experts and stakeholders which resulted in the report, *Ready for 21st Century Success*, to help define and initiate the next chapter in education reform in Massachusetts. The report outlines the challenges, opportunities, needs and

imperatives in public education today. Most notably, it provides an action agenda “for establishing universal excellence over the next decade“. Recognizing that no one idea will transform the system, the agenda leverages the relationships within the education sector and among all sectors of society with a promise of high-quality public education for all Massachusetts residents.

On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, **Michele Norman**, Director of Strategic Planning & Collaboration, Executive Office of Education, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, will discuss the **Commonwealth Readiness Project**, the Patrick Administration Action Plan for the future of education in Massachusetts. Touted as “The New Promise of Public Education,” the plan proposes an action agenda to prepare Massachusetts students for success in the 21st century.

Beginning at 7 pm in the Hingham High School Library, Ms. Norman will give an overview of the plan and its implications for public education. She will then open up the meeting to questions from the audience. This is a not to be missed opportunity to learn more and to provide feedback about the Patrick Administration Education Plan. Please plan to attend and bring an educator, parent or taxpayer with you. Help publicize the meeting by downloading the attached flyer and distributing wherever appropriate. As always, this program is free and open to the public.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Happy fall to everyone. Please do not forget to vote on Tuesday, November 4th. I hope you all took advantage of the AAUW Weekend, October 25th & 26th at either the state meeting in Taunton or at the New Members Orientation Tea. Both gatherings were very informative and fun to attend. As we approach Thanksgiving remember to save time on Tuesday, November 18th, to come to our branch meeting at Hingham High School Library. Michelle Norman will be the speaker; she will present the Governor's Plan for Education.

I hope you all received a copy of the AAUW Congressional Voting Record. It was available at the October meeting. If you did not receive one please let me know so I can provide you with a copy. I also want to mention to "save the date" December 14th for our Holiday Brunch at the Mill Wharf in Scituate Harbor. Please RSVP to Lynn Howard or Sandy Carle if you plan to attend. We have a lot of opportunities to meet before the holidays, so I hope to see you all soon.

Sheila Doherty, President

ANNOUNCEMENT

Eleanor Roosevelt Comes to Norwell

Meet Eleanor Roosevelt portrayed by Elena Dodd on Sunday, November 9 at 3 PM in the James Library and Center for the Arts, 24 West Street, Norwell. This solo performance is a frank, humorous look at Eleanor's struggles with public life and her journey toward personal fulfillment. Tickets are \$10 and may be obtained by calling 781 659-7100 or can be purchased at the door.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Last month I invited each of you to an “unparty” to help raise funds for the Legal Advocacy Fund. The party was a dismal failure since I was aiming for 100% attendance. The good news is that a little under 30% of our branch members have contributed \$614 to the Fund so far this year. It is still not too late for you to make a contribution. In these hard economic times, it is not the amount that counts, but rather the percentage of participation. You may send your check payable to AAUW-LAF to me (Hollie Bagley) or hop online and contribute directly at <https://svc.aauw.org/contribute/laf.cfm> or through your Member Profile in the Member Services Database in AAUW’s Member Center.

AAUW signed an *amicus curiae* brief in support of the plaintiff in *Crawford v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County*. The case is being heard by the Supreme Court and relates to reporting sexual harassment. You may read more about it at http://www.scotusblog.com/movabletype/archives/06-1595_ob.pdf.



Do you think you are being paid fairly? What about your daughter, your granddaughter, your sister? Did you know you can find out your personalized salary target with AAUW's **Fair Pay Tool**. AAUW's partner Job Search Intelligence recently launched a free fair pay compensation tool. Access nearly all job descriptions in every region of the US. Visit <http://www.jobsearchintelligence.com/jobseekers/> to use the Fair Pay Tool.

Hollie Bagley, LAF Liaison

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Elin Duffy attended our October meeting at the Hingham Library and decided to join our AAUW branch. We welcome Elin and hope she finds our group informative and enjoyable.

WRITER'S GROUP

Two of our writers have had their work accepted for publication by the South Boston Literary Gazette. Susan Mahan's piece is a memoir entitled "How I Snared a Llama Snarl" and Beatrice Kelly's poem is called "Ex-Pats." Gwen Sayian again wrote an interesting column for us in the Hingham Journal. The next meeting of the Writers' Group will be November 6 7 PM at Brewed Awakening in Hingham Square.

SAVE THE DATE

The Holiday Brunch will be on Sunday, December 14th at 11:30 a.m. at the Mill Wharf in Scituate. The cost is \$24 (pay with cash at the brunch). More information will follow at a later date.

Sandy Carle and Lynn Howard, Social Committee

ADVENTURES IN DINING

On a warm evening in October, eight of us ventured forth to try our hand at Japanese "hot pot" cooking at **Shabu** in Quincy. All of us agreed it was a delicious experience, one we would try again. The only thing better than the food was the company. On November 20th we will continue our ethnic theme by trying Spanish tapas and flatbreads at **Hola** in Marshfield. We invite you to join us as we explore interesting cuisines on the South Shore.

BOOK GROUP

We will meet at Carol Sullivan-Hanley's on Tuesday, November 11th at 7:00 PM. We will be reading *Dead Man Walking* by Helen Prejean. Please let me know if you can make it.

Carol

BOOK FOR JANUARY MEETING

On January 13, 2009 our branch will gather at a soup and salad supper to discuss the book, *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls. "*The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply and uniquely vibrant... *The Glass Castle* is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family." (Back cover) Winner of many awards with a place on the New York Times Bestseller List for over a year, the book is available in paperback.

PUBLIC POLICY

Last Presidential Debate Includes Important AAUW Issues: The last of three presidential debates aired this past Wednesday, marking the start of the homestretch to Election Day. While the first two debates dealt mostly with foreign policy and national security, the candidates spoke about many domestic issues important to AAUW members on Wednesday. Equal pay, school vouchers, retirement security, and judicial nominations are just some of the topics discussed by the candidates, as they laid out their positions. Senator Barack Obama mentioned his

support for Lilly Ledbetter, and the pay equity legislation that bears her name, before sparring with Senator John McCain over the D.C. school voucher program.

Women Take on More Financial Stress Due to Economic Crisis: The "Annual Stress in America" study, recently released by the American Psychological Association, found that the nation is taking on more stress as a whole due to the burgeoning financial crisis, and that this stress is causing increased physical and emotional health problems. However, women are more likely to experience stress due to the economic climate than men are. When compared with men, more women say they are stressed about money (83 percent vs. 78 percent), the economy (84 percent vs. 75 percent), job stability (57 percent vs. 55 percent), housing costs (66 percent vs. 58 percent) and health problems affecting their families (70 percent vs. 63 percent). Women in their mid-to-late 40s and older are the most likely to bear the burden of financial worry, and the effects of this increasing level of stress are great. The study found that women were more likely than men to report fatigue, irritability, depressed or sad feelings, and headaches due to stress. This has become increasingly true in the past year.

Social Security Benefits to Increase: According to CNN, social securities benefits will increase 5.8 percent next year for the 50 million people currently receiving benefits. This increase translates into approximately \$63 more a month, and an average increase in checks from \$1,090 currently to \$1,153. While this increase will be the largest jump in more than 25 years, it may be seen as meager by the millions of retirees who rely on Social Security and are being hit by rising costs and the volatility of the current financial market. It is estimated that in the past 15 months, American retirement plans have lost more than \$2 trillion. This loss is sure to put a heavier dependence on Social Security benefits.

Younger Americans Are No Longer Gaining in Education Level: A new report, the 23rd edition of "Minorities in Education," shows that for the first time in many decades, the current young generation will not bypass the previous generation in educational advancement. The study, done by the American Council on Education, found that the percentage of young adults aged 25 to 29 and older adults aged 30 and above with at least an associate degree in 2006 was about the same, approximately 35 percent. For Hispanics and American Indians, young adults have even less education than previous generations.

U.S. Fails to Develop Math Skills of Talented Students: A new study published Friday in the Notices of the American Mathematical Society suggests that the U.S. is failing to develop the math skills of students, especially those with the most talent for the field. According to the New York Times, the study found that U.S. culture fails to identify—and in fact discourages—students that have exceptional talent in math. The findings may be even more true for girls.

College Enrollment and Graduation Stats Released: On a related note, a recent report released from the National Center for Education Statistics shows that 25 million individuals were enrolled in a higher education institution during the 2006-2007 academic year. Of the 25 million students registered for classes 21.6 million were undergraduates, 3.1 million were graduate students, and 367,000 were first-professional students. During that time, four-year institutions granted 2.4 million degrees, and two-year institutions awarded 563,875 degrees. Forty-two percent of the degrees awarded by four-year institutions were to men and 58 percent went to women, while 37 percent of degrees awarded by two-year institutions went to men and 63 percent to women.

Baby Boomers Decreased Investment in Retirement Savings: According to the Wall Street Journal, AARP recently conducted a survey that found that one in five baby boomers have reigned in their investments in retirement accounts. Currently, over 60 percent of private sector workers have 401(K) investment plans but earlier surveys have revealed that people are not investing enough money in these plans. Due to a slumping economy, people are starting to lessen their contributions to these accounts, and the survey shows that over the past year, 20 percent of people age 45 and older have stopped investing in their retirement accounts. Of the 20 percent of people who discontinued investing in their retirement account, 83 percent said they didn't have enough money left over after current expenses. Many of the people surveyed are considering the fact that they may have to postpone retirement or not retire at all because they do not have enough money saved to retire. Due to the current economic situation, people making less than \$30,000 a year, Hispanics, and women were also very likely to stop their investment savings.

Discussion on Pay Equity Takes a New Perspective: Time Magazine recently released an article on the issue of pay equity, which looked at the problem from a very different viewpoint. The article “If Women Were More Like Men: Why Females Earn Less,” focuses on a study done on transgender people in the workplace, and the discrimination they face after gender realignment. The study found that women who become men (known as FTMs) do significantly better than men who become women (MTFs). MTFs in the study earned, on average, 32 percent less after they transitioned from male to female, even after the authors controlled for factors like education levels. FTMs earned an average of 1.5 percent more. The study offers an interesting view that further illustrates the discrimination women face, even if they were previously male.

Study on Sexual Harassment Reports Startling Results: A new survey of 600 girls ages 12-18 found that 90 percent reported experiencing sexual harassment. Christia Brown, assistant professor of psychology at the University of Kentucky, and Campbell Leaper, professor of psychology at the University of California Santa Cruz, were surprised by the results of their study that showed the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and sexism in schools. In addition to the fact that nine out of 10 girls face sexual harassment at least once, female athletes and academically talented girls are more likely to be subjected to sexist comments. Sexual harassment can be either physical or verbal, and can have a profound affect on self-esteem and body image, the women found. One tragic affect of this is that girl’s can begin to become complacent to the problem and blame themselves for others behavior.

Family Planning Services a Good Investment: A recent study conducted by Guttmacher Institute found that publicly funded family planning clinics helped couples and women prevent 1.4 million unintentional pregnancies in 2004. It is thought that approximately 600,000 of those pregnancies would have ended in abortion and the other 640,000 would have been unintended births. If family planning services were non-existent, the unintended pregnancy and abortion rates would be 50 percent higher than its current rate. Guttmacher estimated that state and federal governments save significantly—\$4.3 billion in one year—by funding family planning clinics. In fact, for every \$1.00 spent to provide services to publicly funded family planning clinics, \$4.02 is saved in Medicaid birth costs that are averted. Another recent Guttmacher Institute study shows that the number of abortions in the U.S. continues to decline, but that the abortion rates remain higher for women of color than for white women.

Former SDSU Coach Wins Gender Discrimination Lawsuit: Former San Diego State swim coach, Deena Dearth Schmidt, has reached a \$1.45 million settlement in her Title IX sex discrimination lawsuit against the school. Schmidt was the women’s swim coach from 1994-2007 and alleged many instances of discrimination during her tenure, including “unequal and inadequate” facilities, pay, practice times and administrative support. This lawsuit joins a slew of other gender based discrimination suits facing the California State School system recently.

“14 Women” To Make Television Debut: The film “14 Women”, which celebrates women’s leadership in U.S. Congress, will make its world television premiere on the Sundance Channel, October 6 at 9pm E/P. “14 Women” follows the fourteen female senators during the 109th Congress, depicting the extraordinary intelligence and passion shown by these women in both their professional and personal lives. The film was shown at the 2008 Republican National Convention at an event sponsored by AAUW and the White House Project. Please spread the word about this premiere!

Supreme Court Preview Released: The Supreme Court will start its new term on Oct. 6. This upcoming term, the Court will hear cases covering a number of important areas, including employment discrimination, free speech, voting rights and access to justice. People for the American Way has released a preview on the upcoming judicial term, outlining several of the cases the Supreme Court is set to hear. The number of recent Court cases that have been decided by 5-4 rulings reiterates the importance of Supreme Court nominees and of those elected to nominate and confirm them.

Demand for Pell Grants Increase as Economic Crisis Worsens: Battered by the worsening economy, college students are seeking federal financial aid in record numbers this year. As of the end of July, 800,000 more students had applied for grants than on that date last year, partly due to the increasing amount of non-traditional students

who are returning to school in light of the grim fiscal outlook. According to the New York Times, The U.S. Department of Education warned that Pell grants, the most important source of federal financial aid, will need an additional \$6 billion in taxpayer funds to keep the program afloat without cutting the size of grants.

Title IX Receives Praise in New Study: While the debate on the Title IX and its affect on athletic participation for both genders is not likely to end soon, a new study released by the Women's Sports Foundation offers new evidence on the topic. The research report, *Who's Playing College Sports?: Money, Race and Gender*, puts to rest the notion that increased women's athletic participation since the inception of Title IX has caused men's participation to decline. In the past 25 years, both genders saw an increase in participation and funding, indicating that Title IX benefits to girls doesn't come at the expense of boys. To provide equal opportunity for women and men in athletics, universities promoted increased participation for women instead of decreasing participation opportunities for men.

Economic Crisis Intensifies For Women: Recent economic troubles are prompting many watchdogs for women's rights to voice growing concern over women's retirement security, *Women's E-news* reported on Tuesday. Data collected by Vanguard indicates that women have a smaller cushion in their plans, with men on average having invested \$40,000 more than women in retirement funds. WISER, a women's retirement advocacy group, also noted that smaller losses hit women harder as about 1.4 million more women than men live in poverty. The demise of retirement savings will likely also force older women to work longer and to return to the workforce if they have already entered retirement. This crisis on Wall Street should be a wake-up call for the next administration to protect Social Security to ensure that women have a secure future in retirement.

No Evidence to Support Effectiveness of Abstinence-Only Programs: Abstinence-only sex education programs, which have received \$1.5 billion in government funding, have again been widely discredited as ineffective and inaccurate by a major review. The National Sexuality Research Center published a review by Douglas B. Kirby comparing the effectiveness of abstinence-only and comprehensive sex education programs, based on various studies conducted on programs through the states. The review found that abstinence-only programs do not delay the initiation of sex or reduce the amount of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections in youth. Also, many abstinence-only programs misinform students about the effectiveness of condoms and contraceptive options, either by over-exaggeration or inaccurate facts. Comprehensive sexuality education programs, however, were found to be much more effective.

Title IX Violation Ruled in California College : The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights found that San Diego Mesa College violated portions of Title IX, the AP reported. Some of the "identified disparities," including the scheduling of games, use of locker rooms, use of practice and competitive facilities, and availability of medical and training facilities, were found to be "more than negligible and collectively established a violation of Title IX." The allegations were brought by a former women's basketball coach and her domestic partner, a former assistant. Other allegations brought by the coaches, such as a failure to provide proper equipment and supplies, the opportunity to receive coaching, the assignment and compensation of coaches, and the availability of support services, were rejected by the OCR. Mesa College has agreed to rectify the violations and make necessary changes and improvements.

Women Play Sports in Higher Numbers but Do Not Coach or Manage in Higher Numbers: USA Today has reported that since 1973, when Billie Jean King's defeat of Bobby Riggs in a "battle of the sexes" tennis match set women on the path of becoming great athletic competitors even against male opponents, women have made great strides in athletics. Title IX has led to a significant number of women athletes since it was passed in 1972. Even though great female athletes are all around today such as Venus and Serena Williams and Danica Patrick we have yet to see a huge increase of women athletic directors or coaches at major universities. Currently the percentage of female athletic directors at Division I colleges and universities is 4.2 percent compared to 33.7 percent at Division III universities.

AAUW Featured in Program on Women in the Workforce: AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman was part of a great discussion that aired Wednesday on Minnesota Public Radio. She joined a panel that tackled the question of why success in school is not a predictor of success in the workplace for women. Other panelists included Hannah

Seligson, journalist and author of "New Girl on the Job: Advice from the Trenches" and Monica McGrath, leadership development consultant and professor at the Wharton School of Business. Listen to the program and submit your comments on the NPR website.

GAO Report, NPR Highlight Pay Equity Legislation: a new study by the Government Accountability Office found that the federal government has failed to adequately scrutinize enforcement of our nation's pay discrimination laws. In the study, the GAO found that the Equal Employment Opportunity Committee and the Department of Labor, both charged with enforcing pay discrimination laws, do not monitor gender pay performance in a comprehensive method, leaving many employees vulnerable to pay inequity. Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA), Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), who requested the study, have reiterated their call for Congress to pass legislation that would toughen pay discrimination laws and take steps to erase pay inequities.

On Monday, National Public Radio's Morning Edition program highlighted pay equity and the increasing focus this issue is receiving in the presidential campaigns. The segment featured Lilly Ledbetter and a summary of the action surrounding the legislation that bears her name. The story also featured AAUW-supporter Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), the sponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, and discussed the presidential candidates' position on the pieces of legislation. You can listen to the segment on NPR's website.

Not Just a Glass Ceiling: A new report by the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society suggests that the fact that elective office is more of a white male occupation may have more to do with a pipeline than the infamous glass ceiling. The study, "Appointed Policy Makers in State Government: Glass Ceiling in Gubernatorial Appointments," found that a disproportionately low number of women and minorities are appointed to top state jobs, making it difficult for them to get the experience and the public attention needed to achieve a successful political career.

The report surveyed the amount of women and minorities appointed by governors in each state to leadership positions from the year 1997 to 2007. The survey exposed a dismal gain in many areas. The percentage of top-ranking executive leadership positions held by women has increased, but not by much. By 2007, women held 35 percent of executive posts, compared to 28 percent in 1997. On the other hand, there is some evidence of women's more significant progress: 26 of the 50 states reached a higher level of gender representativeness in the executive branch of state government in 2007 than in 1997. The area that reported the most disappointing results was in policy leadership. Over the 11-year period from 1997-2007, the percentage of women exercising policy influence in governors' offices increased by a mere 2.4 percentage points.

Women Fall Behind in Ph.D. Completion: "Significant gaps exist — by demographic groups and disciplines — in who finishes Ph.D. programs. Generally, foreign, male, and white students are more likely to earn their doctorates after 10 years than are their counterparts who are American, female or minority," begins a story on Insider Higher Ed about a new study released by the Council of Graduate Schools. The research includes data from 24 Ph.D. producing universities that evaluates doctoral completion rates of women and men, Americans and foreigners, and minorities and white students. Also taken into account was the area of study in which doctorates were being completed by men and women. The research shows that women are completing a higher percentage of doctorates in social sciences and humanities but are lagging behind in engineering, math, and science doctoral degrees.

In an effort to help improve the rates of completion, Robert Sowell, project director and vice president of the Ph.D. Completion Project, suggests improving information about what it takes to pursue doctoral studies so students are not as overwhelmed when entering their respective programs, programs to help with the dissertation writing process, and increased access to family leave while in the program.

Costs of Higher Education Increase for Colleges, Too: The Higher Education Price Index, colleges' version of the Consumer Price Index, rose from 3.4 percent in FY07 to 3.6 percent for FY08, according to data compiled by the Commonfund Institute, according to a story on Inside Higher Ed. The index, which measures the inflation rate faced by colleges, is compiled using eight different cost factors: faculty salaries, administrative salaries, clerical, service employees, fringe benefits, miscellaneous services, supplies and materials, and utilities. The Commonfund Institute recognizes that the HEPI would be higher if the timing of the calculations didn't exclude the large increases in utilities costs over the last several months.

AAUW Gains Special Consultative Status with U.N. Council: AAUW has gained special consultative status at the United Nations with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which initiates reports, makes recommendations, and promotes respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

For many years, AAUW has had a U.N. representative attending select meetings and monitoring issues affecting women and girls. The new designation allows AAUW to participate in international conferences, sign on to NGO statements, and share AAUW's expertise.

"We closely follow a variety of international issues ranging from girls' education to women's economic security to human rights to women in peacekeeping," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "This new status will strengthen AAUW's presence globally and provide us with greater opportunities to engage in U.N.-related activities and initiatives that break through barriers for women and girls."

AAUW has a proud history in global affairs that includes awarding more than 2,200 international fellowships to women from more than 130 countries and partnering with leading international humanitarian organizations on initiatives to empower women.

Next year, AAUW will actively advocate for women at the 53rd session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, which will focus on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

"AAUW can now advocate more effectively and support policies aimed at strengthening gender equality, especially in the areas of the economic, social, political, and reproductive health rights of women and girls," said Carolyn Donovan, AAUW's U.N. representative.

Currently, AAUW is encouraging its branches to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10 and to continue supporting ratification of the women's rights treaty—the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

"AAUW members have long supported our efforts, from hosting international visitors to initiating forums and symposia on global issues pertinent to women and girls," said Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW's director of fellowships, grants, and international programs. "We are thrilled that our role is expanding."