

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

SEPTEMBER 2010

CALENDAR

September 14, Tuesday	6:30PM	Pot Luck Dinner & Pound Auction Allerton House, Hingham RSVP: Susan Mahan
September 16, Thursday	4:30 PM	Declutter Bugs Panera, Derby Street Shoppes, Hingham
September 23, Thursday	7:00PM	Girls Game Night Home of Chrisanne Gregoire
September 30, Thursday	6:30PM	Adventures in Dining La Paloma, 195 Newport Avenue, Quincy

POT LUCK SUPPER

The annual pot luck supper is coming up on **September 14**. It will be held at the Allerton House, 15 Conditto Road in Hingham and will start at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to me and let me know what dish you can bring so we can make sure we have enough in the categories of salad/side dish, main dish and dessert. Coffee, tea and bottled water will be provided. The Allerton House kitchen facilities include a refrigerator, a microwave and an oven, but no stove-top burners, so keep this in mind if you need to heat up your dish. In the interests of going **GREEN**, don't forget to bring your own place setting!

We need people to help set up and clean up afterwards. If you can help with this, please let me know when you RSVP. You can contact me at 781-335-6912 or poetessusan1@verizon.net I hope to see you there!

Susan Mahan, Social Committee

Directions to Allerton House:

Allerton House
15 Conditto Road
Hingham, MA 02043

From Route 3 South:

Take Route 3 South to Exit 14 (Route 228). At the end of the ramp, turn left and follow Route 228 approximately 4 miles to a red blinking light. Continue straight through the light and follow Central Street through yellow blinking light in Hingham Square. Directly after the yellow blinking light, turn left onto North Street, and then right at the Lincoln Statue onto Lincoln Street. Follow Lincoln Street to intersection of Route 3A and bear right onto Downer Avenue. Take the first left onto Conditto Road. Allerton House at Harbor Park is directly behind Harbor House Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

From Route 3 North:

Take Route 3 North to Exit 14 (Route 228). At the end of the ramp, turn right. Proceed on Route 228 as instructed above.

Pound Auction Fundraiser at Pot Luck

Whimsical, pragmatic, comical, utilitarian, or ? ? ? ?

Which one fits you best?

Please bring a mystery item weighing one pound (more or less) to our Pot Luck dinner. We will auction our items for **AAUW Funds**, specifically, the Educational Opportunities Fund for fellowships and grants (formerly EF) and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF).

Your item should be wrapped or bagged accompanied by a "phrase" to intrigue a bidder. The cleverer you are, the more fun we have!

Thank you for your cooperation and generosity. Call me if you have any questions.

Ruthanne Kennedy, 781-337-1645

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome back, I hope you all had a nice summer. This fall will be a very exciting time for our members. Be sure to mark your calendars with these three dates: September 14th for Pot Luck, October 12th and November 9th for branch program meetings. This is the year to bring a guest to Pot Luck; we are going to have a drawing for a free national membership (\$49.00) for those who bring a potential member.

In addition, star October 23rd and November 6th on your calendar for two very exciting state program meetings. On October 23rd, Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations will travel from Washington, D.C. to join us for lunch at the Holiday Inn in Taunton. I have heard Lisa speak at national conventions and can guarantee that she is a dynamic speaker. She is a master in getting legislators to be receptive to the AAUW perspective on issues of national importance. On November 6th, AAUW- MA will join with the Babson Center for Women's Leadership to present a fall conference for all women in the Boston area. Its title is "Education, Employment and Empowerment-Global Perspectives for Women". Although it is still in the planning stage, I hear through the grapevine (Catherine and Hollie) that there is a spectacular lineup of speakers, both local and international. More information on this will be coming soon.

I know we had been bombarded with pleas to contact Senator Scott Brown regarding the passage of the Pay Check Fairness Act. AAUW has been working on this for almost 12 years and it has finally passed the House; now it is up to the Senate to bring it to the floor for a vote. If it does not come up in this session the entire bill will have to be refiled and the process will have to begin again. Senator Brown is one of the three pivotal votes that will assure passage of this bill. Let's hope that all of our work to get the message out as to the importance of the bill for men and women pays off with the passage of the PayCheck Fairness Act.

See you at Pot Luck on September 14th.

Sheila Doherty

CONFERENCE

On Saturday, November 6, 2010 Babson's Center for Women's Leadership and AAUW-- Massachusetts will be co-hosting an important conference: "***Education, Employment, Empowerment: The Global Prospects for Women***".

Throughout the day, outstanding moderators and panelists will lead us in exploring the challenges and opportunities for women and girls as they pursue learning, join the workforce and add their voices to the critical discussions and decisions affecting their lives. The three concurrent morning sessions will look at these issues through a global lens, while the afternoon sessions will examine what's happening in the U.S., broadly and, more specifically in Massachusetts. The framework for both morning and afternoon sessions will be women's ***entrepreneurial*** thinking and acting, how ***corporations*** are encouraging and supporting women's education, employment, and empowerment and examples of ***not-for-profit and advocacy***

initiatives that are making a difference. We will end the day with a session that not only encourages but enables participants to make real commitments to action.

The Conference (which will be held at Babson's Executive Conference Center) will begin with registration from 7:30 -- 8:15 a.m., the Welcome at 8:30, followed by the keynote speaker from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

The entire day has been created to ensure that everyone---presenters and participants--- will have multiple opportunities to learn more about the issues and about programs and perspectives that are having an impact. It has also been carefully designed to give everyone multiple opportunities to make real, meaningful connections and, most importantly, to begin acting to make a difference.

Mark your calendar now, and plan to join us on November 6 for this important event.

Liz Fragola, AAUW-MA President
Barbara Burgo, AAUW-MA Program VP
Jan Shubert, Director, Babson's Center for Women's Leadership

PUBLIC POLICY

Celebrating 90 Years of Women's Suffrage, Still fighting for Equal Pay: August 18th, marked the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote. On August 26th, Americans will celebrate the 90th anniversary of Women's Equality Day, the official day the 19th amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution.

Ninety years after gaining the right to vote, women have yet to achieve gender equality in all areas. According to The Harris Poll results, three in five Americans say the U.S. has a long way to go before reaching complete gender equality. Because of workplace discrimination and harassment, many women choose to enter female-dominated careers that consequently pay less, such as early education. Pay equity is far from achieved as women, on average, continue to earn 77 cents for every dollar men earn. AAUW will continue to advocate within Congress and the administration to urge that appropriate measures to more thoroughly address the wage gap be passed.

Take Action! With your Senators are home for August recess, now is the perfect time to schedule a meeting with them, write your own letter to the editor, and encourage them to help pass the Paycheck Fairness Act!

FDA Approves New Contraceptive Pill: the Food and Drug Administration announced its approval of ella, a new 'morning after' pill that prevents pregnancy for up to five days after unprotected sex. The contraceptive, which received unanimous recommendation for approval by an FDA panel earlier this summer, has been met with concern over its chemical similarity to RU-486, commonly known as the 'abortion pill'. In contrast to competing 'morning after' pills, ella will be made available for prescription use only.

AAUW believes that improved pregnancy prevention programs, new technologies, and access to complete reproductive health services enhance women's reproductive choices leading to improvements in women's health care in the United States and around the world. This position stems from AAUW's 2009-2011 Public Policy Program, which advocates, "choice in the determination of one's reproductive life ... increased access to health care and family planning services including expansion of patients' rights," as well as "supports international family planning programs."

Quinnipiac to Add Women's Rugby and Golf: Quinnipiac University will add women's rugby and women's golf to bring its athletic program into compliance with Title IX. Several volleyball players and their coach sued Quinnipiac last year when the school revealed it would cut volleyball and replace it with competitive cheerleading. Last month, U.S. District Judge Stefan Underhill ruled that Quinnipiac was violating Title IX, because cheerleading is not yet recognized as a competitive sport by the NCAA. Quinnipiac will keep women's volleyball and competitive cheerleading and work to increase their investments in women's athletics.

Women Lag Behind in Med School Leadership: Despite the fact that women make up nearly half of U.S. medical school students, a new UCLA study shows that women are less likely to distinguish themselves as leaders in the classroom. Within the medical school curriculum, students have more opportunities and are expected to assume leadership roles in the classroom. However, according to the study, women in small classroom settings are more

reluctant than men to take on these roles. The distress female students feel with leadership so early in their medical career may link to the disproportionately lower number of women working in senior roles of medicine.

Potential Federal Job Funding for Single Moms: In 2008, Congress approved a \$5 billion stimulus to create over 200,000 jobs for low-income women and men struggling to support their families during the recession. The subsidy is set to expire on September 30, but advocates anticipate that Congress will extend benefits again upon their return from August recess. The Investing in American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act (H.R. 5893) has already been introduced in the House and is likely to pass, extending the TANF Emergency Funds which many single mothers would benefit from by promoting job creation amid high unemployment.

Cadet Leaves West Point over DADT: Katherine Miller, top-ranked academically, militarily, and physically among the corps of cadets at the U.S. Military Academy, has decided to resign from West Point due to the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. In fear of being discharged from the military, Miller was forced to conceal her sexual orientation, make up a heterosexual dating history, and tolerate offensive remarks about gays and lesbians. She has pledged to continue to advocate against the DADT policy while continuing her studies at Yale.

AAUW Makes News Roundup Supporting a Title IX Suit: Readers of Inside Higher Ed's Quick Takes learned about AAUW's involvement with a "key gender equity lawsuit against Delaware State University." The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund announced the award of \$11,500 in support of the plaintiffs in Foltz et al. v. Delaware State University. They are challenging the university's decision to eliminate the women's equestrian team and replace it with competitive cheerleading. The circumstances of that suit closely resemble those of a recently-decided suit against Quinnipiac University, in which the judge said that competitive cheerleading "is still too underdeveloped and disorganized to be treated as offering genuine varsity athletic participation opportunities for students."

Department of Education Launches New Anti-Bullying Website: the Department of Education unveiled bullyinginfo.org, a new web portal that centralizes federal resources related to bullying prevention and response. In addition to offering a wealth of information about common instances of bullying and possible reporting measures, the website also provides educators and community activists with resources to develop cohesive, consistent, and coordinated prevention programming.

President Emphasizes Link between Higher Education and Economy: During his remarks at the University of Texas at Austin, President Barack Obama underscored his administration's efforts to utilize higher education as a tool for revitalizing the economy. Calling education a "prerequisite for prosperity" the president noted that education is "an economic issue when nearly eight in 10 new jobs will require workforce training or a higher education by the end of this decade." He also described efforts to increase the quality of the nation's higher education system, noting increases to Pell grants and other forms of student aid, reformed student lending practices, and an emphasis on increasing minority graduation rates.

Social Security Celebrates Milestone, Faces Uphill Battle: August 14th marked the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. With the added attention related to the anniversary, the Obama administration's deficit commission, and the release of the Social Security Board of Trustees long-range financial outlook, Social Security has faced increased scrutiny and political pressure for reform from both sides of the aisle.

AAUW is committed to a Social Security system that provides lifelong protections for women and families and is firmly against privatizing Social Security. Social Security needs to be strengthened, not weakened through privatization. For more information, read our position paper on women and retirement security, and stay tuned for the release of our Social Security Matters Program in a Box.

Barriers in STEM Careers for Women: Women and minorities continue to face discrimination in advanced STEM fields. Entry-level positions may be less of a problem than in previous years, but workplace disadvantages and gender biases develop overtime. AAUW's most recent research report: "Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics" found that women's higher turnover in academia is primarily due to dissatisfaction in departmental culture and lack of advancement opportunities. The report also discovered that married women with children were 35 percent less likely to enter a tenure-track position after obtaining a doctorate. AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and math education, especially for girls and other

underrepresented populations. These efforts will help increase America's competitiveness by reducing gender barriers that deter women from pursuing academic and career goals in these fields.

Financial Reform Adds Incentives for Hiring Women and Minorities: With the recent passage of the Wall Street reform legislation, financial firms will not only be held accountable to an independent consumer bureau within the Federal Reserve, but they must now also work harder to hire women and minorities. In an overlooked section authored by Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA), the federal government now has the authority to terminate contracts with financial firms that fail to guarantee "fair inclusion" of women and minorities. Legal experts argue that the bill's language is the most far-reaching promotion of diversity within the financial sector that will hold companies both big and small accountable for the composition of their workforce.

Jury Awards Ex-Coach \$545,000 in Title IX Suit: More than five years after he first filed suit, a former Clark College coach was awarded \$545,000 last week when a jury ruled that he had been wrongfully terminated from his position at the college after advocating for female athletes. Trev Kiser, the former women's basketball coach at Clark College, was fired in 2002 after questioning the institution's compliance with Title IX provisions.

Take Action! It's time we know the status of Title IX in America's high schools. Urge your representative to cosponsor the High School Athletics Accountability Act (**H.R. 2882**).

Federal Judge Blocks Key Components of Arizona Anti-Immigrant Measures: a federal judge issued a primary injunction against several components of a highly controversial Arizona anti-immigration law just hours before it was slated to go into effect. The judge's decision came in the wake of nationwide uproar over the legislation, which would require officers to verify an individual's immigrant status during normal enforcement procedures, prohibit undocumented workers from seeking employment in public places, and force all immigrants to carry identification papers at all times. Despite the injunction, several groups have continued protests and boycotts against the state, leading to the arrest of several protestors across the state.

'Race to the Top' Finalists Announced: at the National Press Club, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan defended the administration's education reform priorities and announced that 18 states-AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, HI, IL, KY, LA, MA, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, RI, and SC-and the District of Columbia are finalists in the administration's 'Race to the Top' competition. The program encourages schools to accept national standards, to consider student achievement in educators' salaries, and to broaden restrictions on public charter schools. The 19 finalists are in the running for a portion of \$3.4 billion, funded through the 2009 economic stimulus law. Contest winners will be announced in September.

AAUW believes that the federal government has a critical role to play in ensuring strong academic principles and closing the achievement gap for all children. AAUW endorses the use of a reasonable accountability system that helps ensure all children are prepared to be successful, participating members of our democracy.

30 Million Women to Benefit from Healthcare Reform: According to a recent study released by The Commonwealth Fund, over 30 million women will benefit from the new healthcare provisions implemented during healthcare reform. The Affordable Care Act, passed this March, will allow up to 15 million currently uninsured women to gain subsidized coverage. Additionally, 14.5 million women who are already insured will experience improved coverage or lower premium costs.

States Enact Anti-Cyberbullying Legislation: Following a surge of media attention to the sometimes devastating consequences of cyberbullying, several states have enacted new laws barring the harassment of minors via the internet and text messages. Legislation outlawing cyberbullying has most recently been put into place in Louisiana and New Hampshire. In response to a public outcry for more stringent school procedures, Nevada passed measures banning cyberbullying on all school property.

Medicare and Medicaid Turn 45: on the 45th anniversary of the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid, signed into law on July 30, 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson, President Obama reaffirmed his administration's commitment to programs that allow older and vulnerable Americans to obtain affordable health care services. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) also remarked that with this year's health care reform law, Medicare and Medicaid were significantly strengthened for generations to come.

Gender Norms Create Financial Barriers to Success: Professional women have the largest gender wage gap in the economy. According to researchers at UC Hastings Law School, female law equity partners make \$66,000 less than male colleagues, while women income partners average \$25,000 less annually than men. Common justifications for the wage discrimination lead to preconceived notions of women's family responsibilities.

Women on maternity leave may also experience financial discrimination when applying for a mortgage. More lenders are denying loans to women with perfect credit and a solid job because the borrower is (or will soon be) on maternity leave. An expecting mother with a career would ultimately be discriminated against and disqualified for the loan because when the loan was closing she would not be considered employed by a lender.

Lesbian and Gay Group Overcomes UN Resistance: on July 19, the United Nations accredited the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), a non-governmental organization based within the United States. Although the IGLHRC applied for "consultative status" at the U.N. Economic and Social Council three years ago, the advocacy group for lesbian and gay issues is finally seeing results with the passage of accreditation to lobby the world body. Among world leaders, President Obama has offered his support for the UN's effort to promote an international dialogue addressing human rights and equality.

Appeals Court Addresses Race in Admissions: After a district court upheld the University of Texas at Austin's policy to consider race as a factor in admissions, a federal appeals court will now address the complaints against the policy by two white undergraduates, who claim their race contributed to their rejection. The Obama administration sent a friend-of-the-court brief to the appeals court, citing its support of the university's policy and the 2003 Supreme Court case *Grutter v. Bollinger*, which upheld University of Michigan Law School's policy to consider race during admissions.

Cost of Child Care: A study released by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies indicates that the annual costs of child care in 40 states now surpass the cost of a year's tuition and fees at a four-year public college. According to federal guidelines, families should spend no more than 10 percent of their income on child care; in most states the real costs are two or three times this recommendation. Parents, especially those with young children, are facing greater financial strains on their families, often forcing them to choose informal care options.

Voting Rights Act Anniversary: AAUW joins with civil rights advocates and leaders across the country to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act. In a statement released earlier today, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) reflected that the 1965 legislation "made the promise of equal suffrage guaranteed by the 15th Amendment a reality, and dramatically strengthened our democracy as a result."

Health Care Reform Helps Medicare: A new study shows that the new healthcare reform law will help cut medical costs, allowing Medicare hospital trust funds to span twelve years longer than last year's predictions. The Obama administration cites this improvement for Medicare funds as evidence of healthcare reform's positive effects.

Kagan Confirmed as 4th Woman to Serve on Supreme Court: Despite Republican emphasis on Kagan's record of experience, Kagan bi-partisan support and was confirmed (63-37) as the 112th justice of the Supreme Court. Earlier this afternoon, President Barack Obama swore Justice Kagan into office at a White House reception. AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator Lecia Imbery attended the event on behalf of AAUW.

AAUW SD Challenges Senators to Pass Paycheck Fairness Act: The AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations team applauds AAUW South Dakota's letter to the editor featured last week in the statewide *Argus Leader*, urging Senators John Thune (R-SD) and Tim Johnson (D-SD) to support the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 182). The letter encouraged the senators to voice "their support for the women and families in South Dakota and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act."

Senate Appropriations Committee Approves Paid Sick Leave Program Funding: In the wake of the White House's Work-Flex Event Starter Kit launch to encourage greater dialogue around workplace flexibility, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted last week to approve \$10 million in funding for paid sick leave policies. The funding, which will be provided to states through competitive grants, is approximately \$40 million less than President Obama's initial 2011 budget recommendation.

STEM Education Bill Reintroduced: Representative Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) introduced legislation (H.R. 6078) that would provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. AAUW is working to get the bill included in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Pregnant and Parenting Bill Introduced: Representative Jared Polis (D-CO) introduced the Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act (H.R. 5894) which aims to improve the high school graduation rates and access to higher education for pregnant and parenting students. The bill funds state and local school districts to offer academic support to pregnant and parenting students and obtain affordable child care and transportation services. The legislation also targets existing school policies which discriminate based on pregnancy and violate Title IX.