

# AAUW Massachusetts Baystater

Volume 37, no. 2

September 2013

## In This Issue

[President's Message](#)  
[AAUW National Conference](#)  
[Nancy Pelosi visits Beverly, MA](#)  
[Welcome New Members](#)  
[Boston Branch Program](#)  
[Spring Conference](#)  
[Member Survey](#)  
**Quick Links**

[More About Us](#)



empowering women since 1881

Dear Tamara,

Welcome to the Fall 2013 Issue of our BayStater. In this issue you will find articles about: the AAUW National Conference and election of our new National President; Patricia Fae Ho's speaking engagement with Nancy Pelosi; plans for our Spring 2014 Conference; branch meeting notifications; and names of new branch members throughout the state. There is also a survey at the bottom which we hope all of you will complete and return in an effort to make AAUW-MA an ever-better and ever-growing organization. Your comments are important and most welcome.

## President's Message

As the weather gets cooler on Cape Cod, we say goodbye to vacationers from all over the world and hello to the college students from all over the world. I can't help but think, once again where did the summer go? However, before we put away our beach hats and flip-flops, I am reminded of the many accomplishments by AAUW-MA members over these past few months. Nearly a dozen of us attended this year's National Conference in New Orleans and experienced, not only a first-class event, but learned more about AAUW than I thought I'd ever know and celebrated, with great pride, the announcement of Patricia Fae Ho as the next National President. Just when I thought it truly couldn't have gotten any better, the list of donations flooded the jumbo screens and AAUW-MA members applauded the many categories in which our donations took us to "Top Ten" level across the country! A visit to New Orleans was on my personal "bucket list" and to do so as your State President this year is truly a dream come true! Thanks, one and all - for the memories in NOLA, as well as helping to make this a better world !!



In late June, several of us met in Braintree for a Board Meeting and officially welcomed in our new leadership, including Ruth Ladd and Margaret Chalupowski as Co-Presidents-elect. Thank you to all who will continue to serve AAUW-MA in as spectacular a way as has been done in the past and special thanks to Liz Fragola, Chair, Pat Bologna, and Beryl Domingo who served as this year's Nominating Committee. I am honored and forever grateful for your guidance and support during my first year as President.

In August, newly-elected National President Patricia Fae Ho took time out of her hectic schedule to join us at our summer planning meeting at Massasoit Community College in Brockton. Special thanks goes out to Pat Laidler for helping us secure such a great meeting room! One idea generated there was to forgo a State Conference this fall in hopes that many more would attend a two-day Spring Conference on Cape Cod in 2014, as we did very successfully a few years ago. Since several after-conference surveys asked for more time to "meet and greet" friends and new members from across the State, we hope you will agree that another overnight is long overdue!

Brief notes of other topics discussed at the planning meeting are posted below along with a survey we drafted wishing to hear from you and get a better sense as to how you think we are doing as a State Board - what is working and what needs improvement. Please take the time to fill it out and send it back. AAUW-MA is counting on you!!! Happy Fall.

Yours in AAUW Spirit,  
*Barbara Burgo*  
President

## Recollections of AAUW National Conference

**New Orleans, June 9-12, 2013**

The highlight of this convention was, of course, the election of our former state president, Patricia Ho, as national president! Our MA group all went to dinner on Monday night at Muriel's in the French Quarter while we awaited the final results of voting. We met in Patricia's room for the big announcement. Cheers and champagne flowed that night. It was a memorable celebration.



Most of us felt this was one of the better conventions we have attended. It was well organized and efficiently run. There was a wealth of workshops to choose from, most of which were focused and useful to members. These ranged from the *AAUW Oral History Project*, *Designing Effective Meetings*, *Tech Trek STEM Camp*, *Building a Pipeline of Women in Politics*, *How to Market Your Branch*, *A View of Our Future: Stories from Young Women Leaders*, to *Say Yes to the Ask: How to Talk the Advocacy Talk*. Most of our members reported that the workshops they attended were well-presented and to the point. They seemed to make more of an effort this year to involve attendees more directly by breaking into smaller groups for discussion and brainstorming, etc.

The opening dinner on Sunday night was a fun event. An all women jazz band, The Evening Stars, performed to get us into the mood of the Big Easy. We all had a few laughs over the AAUW fashion show where our board members modeled outfits in colors to compliment the new logo and color scheme for AAUW. The evening ended with the presentation of the Carol R. Virostek Campus Opportunities Fund, which will support AAUW Campus Leadership Projects. Carol has been the chair of the C/U committee for 4 years and is former state president of Connecticut. Carol was surprised and thrilled with this recognition. Those of you who know her, will agree it is well-deserved.

Our Monday plenary event was an "Equal Pay, 50 Years Later" panel featuring Lilly Ledbetter, author of *Grace and Grit*, Jenny Yang, Equal Opportunity Commission, Commissioner, Catherine Hill, AAUW Director of Research, and Lisa Maatz, AAUW VP of Governmental Relations. Needless to say it was a lively discussion which we all enjoyed.

On Tuesday, our plenary featured Robin Gerber, author of *Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way: Timeless Strategies from the First Lady of Courage*. Wow! Robin was a dynamic speaker who brought Eleanor's challenges and triumphs to life for us. It was truly inspiring; we loved her! The final plenary on Wednesday, How to Get Beyond "We've Always Done it that Way", was presented by Cynthia d'Amour. She gave us some good suggestions about how to move our branches forward and to think in new ways.

The Banquet on Tuesday night was a lovely event as it usually is. We heard from the 2013 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award recipient, Linda T. Alepin, Global Women's Leadership Network Board Chair and Founder. The 2013 AAUW Achievement Award was given to Olympia Snowe, former Senator from Maine, and the 2013 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award was given to Melissa Harris-Perry, host of MSNBC's *Melissa Harris-Perry* and professor at Tulane University. The evening ended on a promo for the 2015 convention in San Diego and the formal recognition of our incoming president, Patricia Ho.

This really just scratches the surface of what makes convention so much fun, like catching up with other members. It's great just hanging out with our MA group doing a little sightseeing, having lunch/dinner/cocktails, or beignets at Cafe DuMonde. So get ready, think San Diego, and really get to know AAUW.

*Liz Fragola*



## **Nancy Pelosi visits Beverly, MA**

**When Women Succeed, America Succeeds**

On Friday, August 23, 12 members of AAUW's North Shore Area Branch met former Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, at a forum in Beverly entitled: "When Women Succeed, America Succeeds: An Economic Agenda

for Women and Families".

Approximately 100 people attended the forum which featured our national president and NSAB member, Patricia Ho, as a speaker. Also speaking were Janice Forsstrom, interim president of North Shore Community College, Ana Perdomo, a family day care provider from Lynn, Congressman John Tierney, and, of course, former speaker Pelosi.

President Forsstrom gave the opening remarks emphasizing the importance of community colleges like North Shore CC in improving women's economic stature.

Ms. Perdomo spoke eloquently in Spanish about obstacles she has faced as a daycare provider and single mother to support her family and those of other working parents.

Patricia gave a comprehensive overview of AAUW's work through research and public policy development and engagement in identifying the current needs of women and families which have influence proposed legislation. We felt particularly proud as AAUW members, when former speaker Pelosi repeatedly referred to AAUW's research and lobbying as being invaluable in shaping past and future legislation to meet the needs of working families. Congressman Tierney also referred to AAUW and to our president, Patricia, as being vital forces in advocating for women.

There was a brief Q and A giving women representing a variety of community organizations a chance to bring their concerns to both leader Pelosi and congressman Tierney.

Our group was thrilled to meet Nancy Pelosi and to have our picture taken with her. She was very warm and engaging and thanked us again for our efforts as AAUW members.

We couldn't be prouder of Patricia and the high regard in which she is held by our local and national leaders. What a great day for our national organization and our branch!

*Liz Fragola, August 2013*

## Welcome New Members

**Can't wait to meet you!**

We are pleased to welcome the following new branch members.

From Bedford-Lexington:

Stacy Fatale  
Mariam Atifa Raqib  
Margaret Witecki

From Cape Cod:

Ann Lucas  
Beverly Johnson

From North Shore Area:

Susan Crown  
Cheryl Mezack

From Worcester:  
Janet Bessette  
Adelina Healy  
Erin Keller

## Boston Branch Program October 2nd

**5:30 to 7:30pm at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center**

Mary Howland Smoyer will present a slide show entitled "The Boston Women's Heritage Trail" on Wednesday, October 2nd, from 5:30 to 7:30pm at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, 330 Brookline Avenue, Shapiro 484 Conference Room, Boston. Featured will be the lives of famous Boston women, including Abigail Adams, Louisa May Alcott, Melnea Cass, Lucretia Crocker, Isabella Stewart Gardner, Elma Lewis, Phyllis Agassiz Shaw, Lucy Stone, Phyllis Wheatley, and Sarah Josepha Whitman. If you would like to attend, please reply to Arline Broberg at 781-665-8108 or [orarlinebroberg@verizon.net](mailto:orarlinebroberg@verizon.net). There is no charge.

## Spring Conference

**Coming in April or May**

Stay tuned for details of a fabulous 2-day conference on Cape Cod addressing the issue of women and community colleges.

## Member Survey

**We want to know what you think!**

Please take a few moments to let the board know how we are doing. This brief survey will be distributed at your October and November branch meetings. Please complete the survey then. They will be collected and returned to us.

If you won't be at either of these meetings, click [here](#) to participate in the survey. Please print it, answer the questions, and then mail to Robin DeMott, 71 Robbins Street, Acton, MA 01720.

Your input is important and will help us to improve state programs. Thank you.

Enjoy the fall!

**Sincerely,**

Tamara Gaydos  
AAUW Massachusetts  
Administrative Coordinator