



DAWN BREAKER

THE NEWSLETTER OF
AAUW OF MAINE
FALL 2007/08
VOLUME 55, NUMBER 1



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

!!!! AAUW NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE !!!!

FINDING AND USING OUR PUBLIC VOICES

AAUW members and other interested individuals are warmly invited to participate in the AAUW New England Regional Conference on Friday, October 12 - Saturday, October 13, 2007. The meeting will be held at the World Learning, School for International Training, 1 Kipling Road, Brattleboro, Vermont. Our host branches are Brattleboro, VT and Keene, NH. This conference is a valuable opportunity to gather with AAUW members to discuss women's and educational issues of our time without the expense of a national convention. The program planners have put together a very exciting program. Keynote speakers are Madeleine Kunin, Former Governor of Vermont and Former Ambassador to Switzerland and Dr. Karen Houseknecht, Vice President of Biology, ASDI, Inc. and Association for Women in Science Board. All the details start on page 3 of this issue. **Registration Deadline is September 25, 2007.** All the pertinent information can be found at <http://www.aauwvt.org/events.html>.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! AAUW OF MAINE'S FALL LEADERSHIP MEETING: LEADERS FOR CHANGE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2007

On **Saturday, October 27, 2007**, AAUW of Maine will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall of the Church of Universal Fellowship, 82 Main Street in Orono. We will take an exciting look at the latest news of AAUW. We'll hear updates about the Wage Project, the strategic process, and Zoey's Room. We'll hear news about the Maine Women's Lobby and their initiatives, the new AAUW website, younger members, and international relations. See the details and registration form on page 2.



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday and Saturday, September 28-29, 2007
Best Western Glengarry, Truro, Nova Scotia.

Maine AAUW has been invited to this event. Although we did not attend this event last year (due a scheduling conflict), we have had members attend in the past. Important speakers will be CFUW National Executive Susan Russell and Atlantic Region President Grace Stapleton.

Full Registration is \$70; after 9/7/2007 \$75.00; Food costs will be \$31.00 and motel costs about \$104.00 plus tax for two sharing a room. More information is available at www.cfuw_truro.org.

Betsy Eggleston will be attending this meeting. Feel free to contact her about attending (etevolunteer@prexar.com).

AAUW OF MAINE FALL GATHERING – OCTOBER 27, 2007
ALL AAUW MEMBERS INVITED

On Saturday, October 27, 2007, we will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall of the Church of Universal Fellowship, 82 Main St, Orono. For our Fall Leadership Team meeting and an exciting look at the latest of AAUW. The theme of this meeting is "Leaders for Change." The morning registration and refreshments will run between 9-9:30 a.m. with the morning program starting at 9:30 a.m.

The morning program will include short 20-25 minute sessions led by different speakers. The sessions include cover younger members, IFUW and international relations, Zoey's Room, the Wage Project, the Maine Women's Lobby, the Strategic Process, and the new AAUW website. At the end of the sessions, Charlene Goehring-Fox will moderate a Q&A session. Lunch will be at 12:30 pm. We are still organizing the final luncheon plans, but there will be one for a reasonable cost or you can brown bag it.

Driving from the north or south on Interstate 95, leave at the Kelly Rd exit (Exit 191), and drive towards Orono on Kelly Rd. Go 1 mile on Kelly Rd. At the end of Kelly Rd, turn left at the light onto Main St. The church is on the right hand side about 1.1 mile from this left turn. Fellowship Hall is to the left of the church on the street level.

The afternoon session of the Fall Board Meeting will start at 1:15 p.m. Please come and help kick off this AAUW year!

SIGN-UP FORM
AAUW of Maine Fall Gathering
Saturday, Oct 27, 2007

Yes! Count me in for an exciting day in Orono!

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Mail to Betsy Eggleston at PO Box 248 Ellsworth, ME 04605 or email Betsy at etevolunteer@prexar.com by Oct. 14. Luncheon will be available for a reasonable cost or you may bring one with you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
BY BETSY EGGLSTON



Speeches, informational workshops, the AAUW Annex for shopping, a cyber café, and meeting with AAUW members from all over the country were all part of the exciting and educational AAUW National Convention in Phoenix, AZ from June 27 to July 2. Charlene Goehring-Fox, Bets Brown, and I represented Maine. Bets also presents a session on our very successful *Pathways to Educational Leadership Conference*. We were busy from 7 a.m. into the evening daily.

It is really hard to impart the excitement of this convention. One of the highlights was the moment when the delegates spoke with one voice and voted unanimously to merge the Educational Foundation with the Association. This very important decision is part of our strategic process to refocus our organization. The delegates seemed to me to be younger and more eager to commit to another 125 years of working for improvement in women's issues.

Our keynote speakers expanded on the theme of this convention was "Expanding a Legacy of Leadership". These speakers were:

- Sherry Schiller opened the first plenary with her speech "Change and AAUW's Strategic Process".
- Greg Mortenson, author of 'Three Cups of Tea, One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time', spoke about his work to establish schools for girls within the Taliban part of Afghanistan.
- Renee Puissant talked about "Honoring Our Legacy, Embracing our Future, An Intergenerational Plenary in Leadership"
- Mae Jemison, astronaut, and winner of the 2007 AAUW Achievement Citation award, spoke at the EF dinner the last night of the convention.

With the new mission, "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research," AAUW of Maine has a more focused call to action for the upcoming year. Whether we partner with other similar organizations or within our own branch, we can work together to advance this theme throughout the coming year. Come to our Fall Workshop on October 27, 2007 to learn more.

AAUW NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday, October 12 - Saturday, October 13, 2007
World Learning, School for International Training
1 Kipling Road, Brattleboro VT
Finding and Using Our Public Voices

SCHEDULE

Friday, October 12, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Welcome Reception, light refreshments
School for International Training (SIT), International Center

Saturday, October 13, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Conference
SIT, Rotch Rooms

- 8:00 Registration, continental breakfast, AAUW shopping
- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions -- Patricia Ho, Andrea Weisberg
Facilitators: Gail Smith and Carol Virostek
- 9:15 Conversations with Keynote Speakers
Ambassador Madeleine Kunin
Former U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Governor of Vermont
- Dr. Karen Houseknecht
Vice President of Biology, ASDI, Inc.
Association for Women in Science Board
- 12:00 Lunch and Town Hall -- Patricia Ho, Gail Nordmoe
- 1:00 AAUW member action and interaction
- Finding and using our public voices, as we address mission-focused programming, membership outreach, alternative state and branch structures, and other issues important to you.
- Facilitator Maggie Ford with Hollie Bagley, Pat Bologna, Betsy Eggleston, Charlene Goehring-Fox, Pat Rathbun

As our keynote speakers share their stories, we are invited to interact with them. Through their role-modeling, we will reach new understandings, form connections and create new insights toward individual and organizational empowerment.

In the afternoon, we will translate these understandings into AAUW action. New England leaders will facilitate frank discussion on program planning, membership recruitment and alternative state and branch structures. We will share experiences and learn from each other as we adapt to changes within AAUW. **This will be a relevant conference for all of us, with many 'take-aways'**. Any interested individuals are welcome to attend; however, the afternoon session would be more meaningful to AAUW members.

During the conference, our states and branches are invited to bring their AAUW fundraising items to sell. We will all enjoy browsing through these wonderful, unique products including crystal necklaces, socks of many colors, and AAUW baseball caps. Please contact PatriciaHoAAUWMA@aol.com if you are planning to bring items to sell.

Host branches Brattleboro VT and Keene NH extend a warm welcome and know you will enjoy the area. They remind us that peak fall season brings glorious foliage and many visitors. Reserve your hotel accommodations now, so you won't be disappointed (see below for details). AAUW Vermont members are also extending their gracious hospitality by offering lodging in their homes for a \$25 fee, with proceeds going to Educational Foundation.

New England Regional Conference Accommodations

Please make your overnight reservations as soon as possible (you can always cancel if necessary). The conference is scheduled at the height of the fall foliage season when all rooms in the area are filled to capacity. Louise Luring has assembled a list of Motels, Hotels, Inns and Bed and Breakfasts in the area. You can download the list here as a PDF file from <http://www.aauwvt.org/HotelsforReg.pdf>.

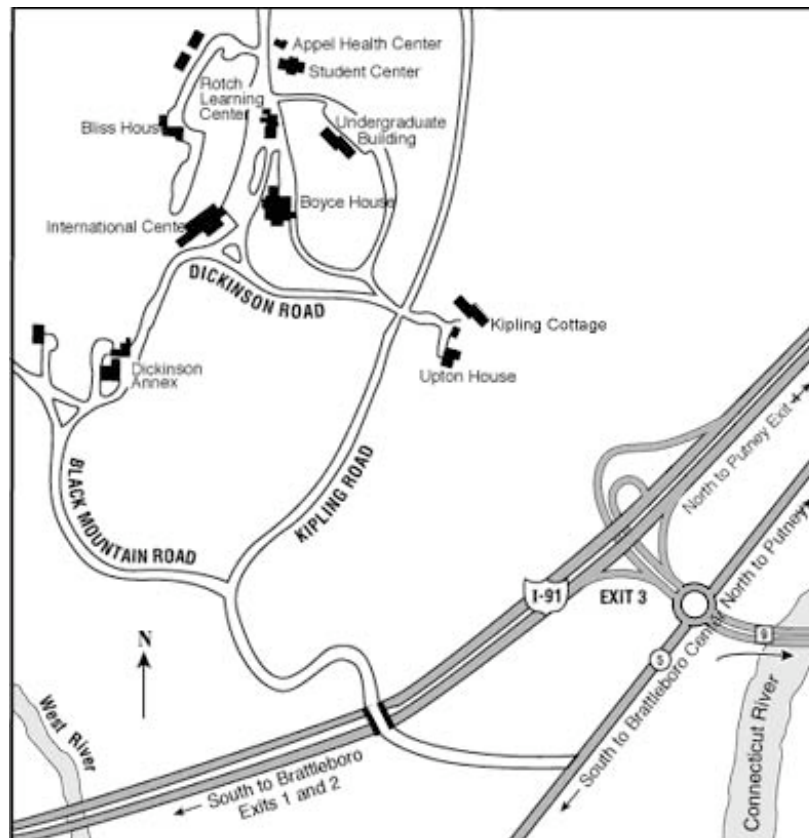
Louise also added, "The last two (#25 and #26) I can't vouch for. They are on the low end. Also, America's Best is iffy. My recommendations are: the Quality Inn, Holiday Inn Express and Dalem's Chalet. The latter is easily reached from SIT by I-91. Also, the Best Western in Keene is good and right on the route to Brattleboro. The Putney Inn is right off I-91 and very nice. Several of the inns have two-night minimums at this time of year. The B&B's are all good and have Websites if people want to see what they're getting. They might even want to stay another night. The Latchis Hotel is an art deco hotel that was refurbished in the last few years. Makes an interesting stay to be right in downtown Brattleboro. Parking in the rear. Let me know if I can clarify anything."

Email Louise Luring at luring@vermontel.net.

Brattleboro Branch members are also offering home hospitality Friday night for those who would like to save money. They will be asking for a minimum donation of \$25 per person for the Educational Foundation. Anyone interested can contact Louise.

Directions – See map below

The conference takes place in two different buildings. The Reception on Friday is in the International Center. The conference on Saturday is in the Rotch Learning Center which houses the Library and several classrooms. Both buildings are shown on the map. If you wish to take a virtual tour of the campus, you can do so.



IT'S A BRAVE NEW WORLD BY PATRICIA HO, REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The moment was filled with tense anticipation as Association President Ruth Sweetser posed the question: "Those in favor of proposal 1, please rise." And it was unanimous! With no nays, and with four subsequent words, "The proposal is adopted", Ruth signaled the start of an historic change in direction for AAUW. Our New England delegates leapt to our feet along with the entire assembly and burst into sustained applause. We cannot forget the emotion and the power of this unprecedented, collective act.



With a mandate for changing AAUW's structure to create a sustainable organization, the Association and Educational Foundation boards will move toward combining many assets and activities into a single entity, governed by a single board. To implement this new direction, delegates approved a transitional board of directors for 2007-2009, and new composition for the 2009-2011 board.

To increase AAUW's responsiveness and flexibility, the "one member, one vote" amendment adoption allows for voting between conventions by mail or electronic balloting. With these and other bylaws changes, AAUW's strategic initiatives have strengthened the proactive ability of the organization to meet the demands of the 21st century.

During Convention, New England delegates met in regional caucus to consider the status of our states and our responses to much-needed structural change. We are strongly encouraging our members to participate in the October 12 - 13 Regional Conference in Brattleboro VT. The theme and format of *Finding and Using Our Voices* will help attendees create new knowledge, and discover or validate the power of speaking up and taking action. With leaders from each state planning conference activities, we guarantee thought-provoking, stimulating interaction where each of us can create and embrace change for ourselves and AAUW. We also promise "take-away" strategies and tips for aligning program with mission, inclusive membership outreach, and creating alternative, flexible branch structures.

In other Convention news, congratulations to New Hampshire for receiving an AAUW Public Policy Impact Grant, to Gail Nordmoe (CT) for her election as Association Executive Vice President/Secretary, and to Dorothy Rand (VT) and Bets Brown (ME) for their selection as our regional representatives to the national Nominating Committee 2007-2009.

I was also very proud to be elected as one of the two regional directors to serve on Association Board for this biennium. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at PatriciaHoAAUWMA@aol.com. I look forward very much to meeting you.

PUBLIC POLICY AND YOU: CHOOSE YOUR ISSUE

BY BARB NICHOLS, PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR

So many issues and so little time! You are a member of AAUW, which means you care about issues that affect the lives of women and girls. But what issue or issues are especially important to you? Ensuring that women are fairly compensated in the workplace? Or that girls and women's access to athletics and academics ensured by Title IX isn't gutted? Or that women retain the right and access to reproductive choice? These and many more issues are being debated and decided on national and state levels, and we must be vigilant and assertive in making our voices heard.



The easiest and quickest way to be heard in Washington is to become a Two-Minute Activist. It's easy! Go to the AAUW website (www.aauw.org), click on Issue Advocacy and join the Action Network. You will receive alerts and information about federal legislative issues, as well as easy-to-personalize messages to e-mail to your congressional representatives.

The Action Network is an important tool for a busy woman, but it is only one way you can encourage positive change. Another way is to volunteer for projects in your branch. AAUW members are making good things happen here in Maine. The *Pathways to Women's Educational Leadership Conference* was organized by Bets Brown and supported by other AAUW volunteers. Caribou and Presque Isle branches partnered with other organizations to sponsor a Wage Gap event. And, currently, the Wage Project has selected the University of Maine to conduct Smart Start workshops November 7 and 14; Sharon Barker is a leader in this effort. These are just a few examples ... there are more!

This doesn't mean that each of us needs to organize some big event, but it does mean that each of us can select one or more causes we are especially passionate about. Then we can inform ourselves and become an advocate for the issue. We can speak out to our friends and family and volunteer to work for the issue.

When we look at all that still needs to be done in the public policy realm, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. But, when we consider all that has been accomplished, it is easy to be inspired. Just 87 years ago, on August 26, 1920, women gained the right to vote in the United States because a single Tennessee legislator switched sides at the last moment. One person *can* make a difference. We have gained choice in our lives and made impressive strides in access to education and the workplace. We stand on the shoulders of women who were, and those who are, tenacious advocates for women and girls. Let's keep our successes in mind when tempted by feelings of frustration and anger. Working together, we will continue to move forward ... because equity *is* still an issue.

AAUW MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY PAT RATHBUN



Let's be honest. Since memberships usually trickle in over the summer, and well into the fall, it's hard to accurately assess any statistics at this time. However, if one considers the downward trend in membership numbers for AAUW over the past few years, a candid report would surely sound a bit bleak. Maine has followed the national trend, with a steady decline in numbers, and several branches report that their leadership has been "tapped out," making it even more difficult to carry on. That's the bad news.

Before we get too glum, however, let's consider some good news. First, we each have the power to bring in at least one new member, thus reversing the downward trend in AAUW membership. I urge every one of you to do just that. Secondly, there is possible interest in starting a branch in the Portland area. We are most fortunate that our dynamic president-elect, Charmen Goehring-Fox, has taken the initiative to make a few contacts to try to create a new group. *If any of you can identify possible recruits in the Portland area, please pass on their names and contact information to Charmen or myself.*

AAUW remains a vital organization, and our branches continue to have a positive impact in our communities. Isn't it worth keeping it alive? Let's all work on it! I welcome all comments, questions, and suggestions.
Pat Rathbun, State MVP,
762-1791
prathbun@maine.rr.com

And some other thoughts:

What can we offer newcomers?

I'm happy to report that there has been a small influx of members who fall into the "Generation X" category in one or two branches. What can we learn from them? These young women, who are often new to their communities, have shared with us that the opportunity to mix with women of varied ages, and to learn from them, is one way for them to expand their lives beyond the work environment, and to belong to the community in a meaningful way. So we can offer them friendship, casual mentoring, and an opportunity to hone their leadership skills, take action on important issues, and advocate for women through AAUW. And now that I think of it, isn't that just what each of us experienced when we joined? I encourage all of you to reach out and get to know this delightful new generation.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION....

So many times we have heard how important location is to a business. But WHY is it? It's the VISIBILITY and CONVENIENCE that location offers.

Think about this as you plan where to hold your meetings. Are your meetings held in a public or highly visible location? If you are on a college campus, or in a restaurant, hotel, or office building, there might even be a notice board announcing your meeting location. This is free advertising!

Is the location centrally located and easy to find? Consider a newcomer trying to find that unmarked side door to a church basement, as opposed to the town library, or "Room 10, Jane Doe Hall," on a college campus. We have heard quite definitely from some newcomers that meetings in senior centers, while convenient for some members, are not enticing to younger generations.

Finally, your meeting will attract more interest from members and guests if it is well publicized. Radio, TV, and newspaper notices, as well as posters are all ways to spread the word. Most media offer free spots on "Community Calendar" listings. Find out how these work in your area, and appoint one branch member to make it happen.

Take Advantage of State Impact Grant \$\$'s to Make Things Happen

Last spring, Presque Isle, Caribou, and Houlton used funds from the state impact grant to raise awareness about the Wage Gap. With support from Women, Work, and Community, UMPI, NMCC, the Maine Department of Labor, the Maine

Women's Policy Center, the University of Maine, Baressi Financial, and the National WAGE Project, they assembled a panel of "experts" from around the state. Press packets were sent out ahead to all local media, which proved effective. The presentation took place on the UMPI Campus, and was publicized in the campus papers and the local media. A local news reporter acted as moderator, and helped arrange excellent TV coverage. *The Bangor Daily News* published a

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Bath/Brunswick branch is hosting our State Convention 2008 to be held the weekend of **May 2-3, 2008!** It will be a wonderful time of celebrating, learning and socializing! Dinner and awards will be held Friday evening and Saturday will be filled with speakers, fun, good food, presentations, the annual baskets raffle for EF/LAF and maybe a surprise or two!! More information will be out soon to branches- registration forms and full details will be in the *Spring Dawn Breaker!* See you there!

substantial report on the event.

Audience participation was high, with many candid comments, questions, and suggestions e for the panelists. Feedback before and after the event indicated that even though people did not attend, they were aware and interested to know how it went. As a follow-up, two local businesses marked Pay Equity Day on April 24. Advertised in the local paper, it featured 77% on the dollar for selected items. Buttons and 77% sized dollars were given out.

All the press coverage was certainly good publicity for AAUW, as well as the wage issues.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS EVENT IN PORTLAND

BY CHARMEN GOEHRING-FOX

We have not had an active branch in Southern Maine for many years. We still have six life members who are keeping the charter alive for the York County branch. To gauge interest in revitalizing the branch, there will be a prospective member get together on **October 5, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Portland Museum of Art. This is First Friday so admission to all downtown museums is free. We will meet at Starbuck's across from the museum, share some information about AAUW and the hope for future branch activities, and then enjoy the museum together as a group or solo, whichever one prefers. Membership brochures will be available as well as other AAUW pamphlets. If you have friends in the area who may be interested in learning more about our organization, please let me know! I will be sending out invitations to those whose names she receives and to our Members-at-Large. You can reach me at charminme@yahoo.com or 756-0506. Let's work for a successful turnout!!

AAUW CONVENTION NEWS

FROM CHARMEN GOEHRING-FOX

In June, I attended the 2007 Association Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. What an incredible feeling to walk into a room of over 800 well informed, educated women dedicated to our AAUW mission of education and equity for all women and girls! This year was special as we were celebrating our 125th anniversary. With the theme of "The Phoenix is Rising," delegates had important work to do that would determine the future of our organization. We voted on proposals and bylaws amendments, the most important being an unanimous vote on the strategic initiatives designed to restructure AAUW into a streamlined, mission-driven organization with a single set of elected officers. This change will occur in 2009, with a transitional board in place until then. We also heard reports from AAUW President Ruth Sweetser, Educational Foundation President Barbara O' Connor, and AAUW's Executive Director Michele Wetherald on AAUW activities of the past two years. Over the next two years, a strong effort will be implemented to "brand" AAUW and bring focus to our organization for our members and for the community.



As a younger member, I was interested to see what the organization is doing to market to members my age and younger. Our leaders are aware of the need to change how we have been doing business in some ways in order to attract the younger women who will help carry AAUW through the next 125 years. I was delighted to see several younger women running for Association and Foundation office, especially one dynamic woman named Jennifer Wilken, EF's Development VP. I had the opportunity to speak with Jennifer and other

younger members during an early morning caucus (one change we will be recommending to staff-schedule the caucus as a happy hour! Too early for most of us!). Attracting and retaining younger members is important and essential to all branches. In the nearly three years I have been in Maine, I have seen progress on this front, and also many areas where improvement is needed. I do have to say that we have an enlightened State leadership and I appreciate the support they have given me during the past few years!

Aside from usual business sessions and discussions around the strategic initiatives, there were many interesting and provocative workshops. Bets Brown presented a workshop on our *Pathways to Educational Leadership Conference* offered last February to teachers from around Maine. I attended workshops on leadership styles, ending women's poverty worldwide, politics surrounding women's economic security, financial independence for girls, and an eye opening session on the continued attacks from the Religious Right. I also was excited about a workshop led by the Westchester, NY branch, who have developed a wonderfully successful model for membership growth and participation.

National conventions always make me yearn for more and feel as if I am not doing quite enough. We heard from Greg Mortensen, who wrote "Three Cups of Tea," about his experiences building schools, primarily for girls, in Pakistan. His story is truly amazing and awe-inspiring. I read the book on the way home and wholeheartedly recommend it! It really made me want to do more to help women in other countries who don't have the voice that many do here. While I know we still have work to do here in the United States, there are women in other places who are so far behind us. It gave me a sense of pride for the project started by Bath/Brunswick member, Patti Irish-Beads for Bali. She is creating and we are helping to sell (and buying!) beaded zipper pulls (or ornaments or table jewelry or USB port identifiers!) to raise money to support a Balinese girl's education. I hope we are able to expand the project this year. I will also be looking for other opportunities that I can easily add to my schedule this year to help women and girls around the world.

AAUW's convention was an incredible experience. As my third convention experience, I got more out of it than the first two. AAUW of Maine is extremely well run and well thought of in Washington and around the country. While we have accomplished some amazing things, but we still have much more work to do. We have a highly capable membership base that I hope will be able to embrace the coming changes, make the necessary changes in their branches and create a lasting legacy for the next generations. I am especially grateful to the State and the Bath/Brunswick branch for funding my registration and trip to Phoenix-without your support, it would have been too costly for me to attend. I hope that I am able to share my experiences and knowledge gained with as many Maine members as possible and translate my excitement into positive action for our state!





EF/LAF NEWS

FROM NANCY HUTCHINSON

The EF/LAF "themed" basket raffle at this spring's state convention was very successful. The baskets were wonderfully varied and generated lots of interest and ticket sales. We earned \$825, including pre-convention sales, which was split between EF and LAF and sent in memory of past state president and our long-time parliamentarian, Jeanne Hammond. Thank you to all who contributed to the baskets and bought tickets. We also thank EF American Fellow and herpetologist Megan Gahl, who had just received her PhD from the University of Maine, for being a speaker and bringing along some of her frogs to show members.

National Legal Advocacy Fund has a new director, Lauren Kamnik, who went to law school at American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., focusing on studying civil rights. She worked for the Department of Justice in the disability rights section of the department's civil rights division. She then attended George Mason University where in May, 2007, she earned a master's degree in social work, concentrating on organizational leadership and social change. Her priorities for the LAF include continuing the success of the case support program, improving the LAF Legal Resource Referral Network, and expanding the campus outreach program.

LAF 25th Anniversary pins are still available. For a \$250 donation you will get the platinum-colored pin as well as the traditional LAF pin given to \$100-level donors. For further information you can contact the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund at 202/785-7750.

The 2007 Progress in Equity Award (PIE) winner, announced at the AAUW Convention, was the Women in Transition (WIT) program at Charter Oak State College in New Britain, Connecticut. This program gives higher education opportunities for low-income, underemployed single mothers to make a transition from low-paid work to a college degree. This is the 20th year for the PIE Award. For more information about the LAF and its ongoing cases as well as current news about the Educational Foundation, check the AAUW website.

I do believe I can accomplish a great deal with a big grin. I know some people find that disconcerting, but that doesn't matter.

~~Beverly Sills (1929-2007)

THE HIGH COST OF GETTING SICK IN MAINE

BY SARAH STANDIFORD



When workers go to work sick, their co-workers pay a price – getting sick themselves. I'm sure you've experienced it at one time or another; someone comes to work sick and before you know it, co-worker by co-worker, the flu goes around. In fact, the flu is one of the biggest causes of workplace absence. Employers, too, pay a price for employees coming to work sick; their workers aren't as productive and more will miss work as the flu spreads throughout the workplace. "Presenteeism," the growing phenomenon of lower productivity and contagion that occurs when employees come to work sick, has been calculated by a national provider of health improvement services to surpass the cost of absenteeism, with an annual tab of \$180 billion nationally.

Mainers Participate in National AAUW

Two members of AAUW of Maine have taken on responsibilities with the national organization. Charmen Goehring-Fox has been appointed to the Association's Public Policy Committee and Bets Brown has agreed to serve on the national nominating committee as the New England Region alternate.

But, let's break it down in terms of Maine. Nearly half of all full-time private sector workers don't have a single paid sick day. That number rises for the working poor – three out of four working poor families don't have any paid sick days. When people lack paid sick days, they are forced to make impossible choices.

Do I go to work sick and risk the health of my colleagues and customers? Do I miss work and go without pay? Do I stay home so my child can be cared for – and risk being fired?

In a state that values the strength and well-being of families, no one should have to make this choice.

That's why paid sick days are so important – even more so for workers in the restaurant, child care, and health care industries for obvious reasons. With 86% of food service workers receiving no paid sick days, it's easy to imagine the public health ramifications. Workers are forced to show up for work coughing, sneezing, and feverish as they prepare and serve meals. Most of these jobs are held by women. This is not only a serious gender workplace issue; it's a public health problem for all of us.

And when women lose needed pay because of the lack of paid sick days – in addition to the wage gap and the care giving penalty – the risk of poverty is compounded. That's why paid sick days should be a basic right.

The majority of Maine people favor guaranteeing paid sick days to care for themselves and their family members. Mainers get it – we all have parents who are aging, we all have or know families where both parents are working *and* caring for children, we all get sick once in a while and need to

stay home to get better. And, ultimately, Maine people value families and understand that it's time we put those values into practice in workplaces from Kittery to Eastport, from Jackman to Madawaska.

The Maine Women's Lobby is pleased to be partnering with AAUW in supporting Representative Jackie Norton's (D-Bangor), L.D. 1454, "An Act to Care for Working Families," which seeks to establish a minimum number of paid sick days for workers employed at establishments with 25 or more employees. L.D. 1454 was approved for carry-over to the second regular legislative session which begins January 2, 2008, but to secure passage, we need your help. To get involved or to learn more, please visit www.healthyfamilieshealthyworkplaces.org or call 622-0851. If we care about family values, it's time to value families.

HANCOCK COUNTY BRANCH BY LOUISE STORER, PRESIDENT

The Hancock County Branch plans to open the 2007-2008 year with a pot-luck and potential members evening at the ocean-side summer home of one of our members. State President Betsy Eggleston will be the speaker, discussing the decisions made at Phoenix and how they will impact all of us.

In October, we plan to have a joint meeting with the local BPW to hear a speaker from the Wage Project. We hope to generate ideas which we could use to advance occupational and earnings equity for women in the Down East area.

The November speaker is a retired academic who will discuss the historical roots of the separation of church and state in American politics. He was invited to speak before we received the new emphasis on mission-related programming. We decided to go ahead with the program since we believe that equity for women could be seriously threatened by a increase in direct involvement of religion in public policy-making.

In December, we plan to have our annual fund-raising auction and pot-luck, which provides our contribution to EF/LAF.

MIDCOAST'S SECOND ANNUAL LITERARY FESTIVAL BY ANNE EDMONDS

Mark your calendars for November 2-4 for the 2007 Maine Literary Festival at the Camden Opera House. With the theme "Mayhem, Money, and Mirth," this event is a continuation of the successful thirty-year Maine Author Series, a college scholarship project of the Midcoast Maine branch of AAUW.

On Friday evening our keynote speaker, Geoffrey Wolff, delivers the E.B. and Katherine White Memorial Lecture. Wolff, a distinguished professor and director of the Graduate Fiction Program at the University of California, Irvine, is himself an acclaimed novelist, literary biographer, essayist and critic. His 2005 book, "At the Edge of the Sea", about the

history and culture of the coast of Maine, honors his Maine connections.

On Saturday, a medley of established authors and rising stars, names such as Sam Donaldson, Joe Hill, Owen King, Mary Malloy, and Brenda Wineapple, as biographers, historians, critics and novelists, will share their thoughts on our title theme through lively lectures, panel discussions and readings.

The Festival closes Sunday morning as a group of acclaimed mystery writers discuss their work from the perspective of differing genres in that medium. Evening gatherings and book signings will provide opportunities to mingle and meet with the authors.

By attending this event you will be supporting the Midcoast's scholarship program which each year awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from each of Knox, Waldo and Lincoln counties. You can also visit the many bookstores in the area and enjoy the beauty of Camden's Harbor "Where the Mountain Meets the Sea".

For ticket information and registration check our web site: www.maineliteraryfestival.com, or call 207-837-2827. Box 886, Camden, ME 04843. Early Bird Registration now available.

PENOBSCOT VALLEY BRANCH BY JANET GIVENS

The leadership team of Penobscot Valley Branch is excited about a public information program on Gardasil vaccinations against certain types of human papillomavirus. which the branch is planning for November. A speaker from the state health department and the Orono town nurse will be participating. Gardasil can prevent certain types of cervical cancer. Barbara Nichols and Cathy Marquez are the co-chairs of the meeting. The branch will be working with the Orono Health Association and the Orono Public Library.

Sister Mentors

In June at a Douglass College, Rutgers University reunion, Janet Givens of the Penobscot Valley Branch met Shireen Lewis (Douglass alumna) the founder of Sister Mentors. Dr. Lewis has devoted over 20 years to mentoring women and girls. She received an AAUW fellowship as a graduate student and financial assistance from AAUW to found Sister Mentors.

Sister Mentors is all about helping girls of color to live their lives to the fullest, including attending college. One of its goals is helping women of color at the college level achieve their degrees and develop a social conscience. AAUW and Sister Mentors share the same mission, "promoting equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change."



BEYOND BULLYING CONFERENCE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

BY BETS BROWN & MEGAN WILLIAMS

Past AAUW Community Action grant recipients, Hardy Girls Healthy Women (HGHW) (www.hghw.org) is preparing to host *Beyond Bully Prevention: Strategies That Work* at the Eastland Park Hotel in Portland, Maine for **November 5, 2007**. Please plan to attend.

HGHW has long been an AAUW of Maine partner with a highly compatible mission and effective and efficient management of its programs and funds. The national AAUW office has endorsed this program, particularly because it clearly extends the work of AAUW on bullying. However, the national office cannot offer financial support. After you read the exciting news of this conference, please consider sending a check to help support this significant event.

HGHW's goal is to move beyond popular notions of bully prevention that overlook the kinds of school experiences that make children and adolescents feel unsafe and unwanted and to provide practices and resources that engage and empower youth and adults.

Beyond Bully Prevention: Strategies That Work will be a day dedicated to social workers, school counselors, teachers, administrators and others who work with and care about youth to learn real strategies that address wider school climate and social issues that so often perpetuate unsafe school environments and thus underlie much of the peer aggression behavior we see in schools. Just as AAUW researchers do in *Hostile Hallways* and *Beyond the Gender Wars*, this conference seeks to move beyond bully-prevention jargon and call things what they are.

Students at risk for bullying include those who "don't fit in," such as those who are or are perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning; those who differ from the majority of their classmates with regard to race, ethnicity, or religion; those who have differing social or physical abilities; and those who are economically disadvantaged. Students are more likely to feel safe and connected to their schools if the school reflects their realities, if they think that they are being treated fairly, and if they believe that teachers are supportive and approachable. Yet, too many bully-prevention programs do not address how cultural norms and stereotypes differently impact children's sense of safety and fairness, feelings of connectedness to school, and teacher support or approachability.

The day will begin with a keynote by Lyn Mikel Brown, EdD, author of *Girlfighting: Betrayal and Rejection Among Girls* and *Packaging Girlhood: Rescuing Our Daughters from Marketer's Schemes*. Next, a panel discussion will include, among others, Lyn Brown and Nan Stein, EdD, co-author of several teaching guides and manuals including *Flirting or Hurting? A Teacher's Guide on Student-to-Student Sexual Harassment in Schools for Grades 6 through 12*, and *Bullyproof*. The day will also include a screening of the

documentary film *Ugly Ducklings* and end with a presentation by Say It Loud, a hip-hop and spoken word group for young women. This year's conference has the potential to reach over 300 people who work with youth within New England and with your help it will.

Please send funds to support this event by making a check out to Hardy Girls Healthy Women and mailing it to Megan Williams c/o HGHW, PO Box 821 Waterville, ME 04903 or donating online at <http://www.hghw.org/supportus.php>. Find out more about the conference, including registration information at www.hghw.org. (Feel free to contact me with any questions.) We look forward to following up with you regarding your support of *Beyond Bully Prevention: Strategies that Work*.

AAUW IS RECRUITING NGCP REGIONAL LIAISONS FOR 2008!

AAUW members who are passionate about increasing opportunities for girls in science, technology, engineering, and math are needed to serve as regional liaisons for the National Science Foundation funded, "*National Girls Collaborative Project*." **Nominations are open from members in Maine!** A collaborative in Maine is forming and will be jointly housed by the Women's Center at the University of Maine, Zoey's Room and a local girls' school.

Nominations are due by September 28, 2007. To nominate yourself or someone else, please go to: <http://www.aauw.org/education/ngcp/documents/LiaisonNominationForm07.pdf>. This very rewarding work will move along the initiative of bringing girls into science careers.

ZOEY'S ROOM UPDATE

Zoey's Room is run by Platform Shoes Forum, a female-led nonprofit with a vested interest in protecting and expanding the knowledge of middle school girls. In June 2007, Zoey's Room's Co-Founders Erin Reilly & Vinitha Nair were awarded a national Leaders in Learning Award sponsored by Cable in the Classroom for our innovative approach to learning through Zoey's Room!

Once a girl joins as a member, she has access to the safe monitored chat room, and message boards, where she interacts live with Zoey and other girls around the country. When she feels comfortable in this collaborative environment, she may then wander into the Tec Trek room, to try some of these online challenges. Everything in the room is self-explanatory. Once she finishes a Tec Trek, she can upload the answers in her Member Profile for points. She can also check out the W3 links and the EPals showcase for help, advice and examples of other girls' Tec Trek challenges. Each day is a new opportunity to make friends and learn cool skills at Zoey's Room. Learn more about Zoey's Room at <http://zoeyroom.com/>.

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CALENDAR FOR 2007-2008

2007

Sept. 28-29 Canadian Federation of University
Women's Conference
October 5 Prospective Members Event, Portland,
Maine
October 12-13 New England Regional Conference,
Brattleboro, VT
October 15 LAF Plaintiff Travel Grants deadline
October 27 AAUW of Maine Fall Gathering
November 5 Beyond Bullying Conference
November 15 ***Dawn Breaker* deadline**
November Approximate deadline for Fellowships
of Educational Foundation
December 15 Educational Foundation donations due

2008

January Deadline for Community Action Grants
March 8 Spring Leadership Meeting
March 15 Snow Date for Spring Leadership Meeting
March 15 ***Dawn Breaker* deadline**
May 2-3 Maine State Convention
July 1 FY09 Branch Dues Reports Due
July 9 Summer Leadership Team Meeting
August 15 *Dawn Breaker* deadline