

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

President: Patricia Laidler (781) 878-6242
Membership VPs: Deanne Noiseux (781) 545-5247
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

NOVEMBER 2011

CALENDAR

November 3, Thursday	Declutter Bugs, 4:30 PM Panera, Derby Street Shoppes, Hingham
November 10, Thursday	Girls Game Night, 7:30PM home of Hollie Bagley
November 29, Tuesday	Adventures in Dining, 6:30 PM Spazio's in Braintree
December 1, Thursday	Girls Game Night, 7:30PM home of Sandy Carle RSVP to Sandy
December 1, Thursday	Writing Group, 7:30 PM Brewed Awakening, Hingham All are welcome!

BRANCH MEETING

Who Does She Think She Is?

Come join us for the compelling documentary, "Who Does She Think She Is?" This award winning film discusses and profiles the lives of women who cannot live without their artistic creations and expressions. There is the first clip with an introductory statement by Peggy McIntosh, the Director of Wellesley College's Center for Research on Women; Portraits in Courage, Against the Social and Ideological Odds. Their stories are vividly told through interviews and opportunities to view their important studio time and creations. It, too, is **the story of the sacrifices that are made so that their vital art can occur, even when it is a necessity for fulfillment.**

After viewing such a comprehensive and enlightening study, a discussion will be facilitated by our AAUW member, Deanne Noiseux. Deanne, an accomplished artist and researcher, will entertain questions and comments. It promises to be an evening of enlightenment and maddening double standards.

Please join us at the Hingham Public Library on Tuesday, November 15th at 6:45 (note new time). The library is located at 66 Leavitt Street and AAUW members Sheila Doherty and Carol Sullivan-Hanley are available for further questions. They can be reached at 781- 267- 1098 or greenharbor11@verizon.net, or 781- 545- 9341 or csulliva@lesley.edu.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone

At the risk of sounding repetitive, I have to say how wonderfully inspiring our October speaker, Jane Roberts, was in her presentation. Her simple philosophy of "When the world takes care of women, women take care of the world" cannot be disputed. I was also very moved by her reminders of how fortunate we who live in the U.S. are and how much our health and well-being, and that of our children, is a direct result of those who have worked tirelessly in the past to insure that our society takes care of us. As members of AAUW, we work to return the favor. By supporting women like Jane, by being aware of what is happening in our world and lobbying our representatives on issues that affect women and girls both at home and abroad, we make a difference; and I, for one, am proud to be part of it.

October's meeting also welcomed a new member, Lucy Sagansky, from Hingham who is one of Hollie's neighbors. Thanks, Hollie! Please say hello to Lucy if you see her at the next meeting. Speaking of which, we have another wonderful program planned for this month: "Who Does She Think She Is?" an award winning video which profiles the lives of women artists in their journeys to express themselves while balancing the demands of home and family. Our own resident artist, Deanne Noiseux, will lead a discussion after the video. If the clips are any indication, it promises to be a fascinating evening. If you'd like to learn more about the video, you can find it at the website here.

Please note: the November meeting will begin at **6:45pm sharp and will be held at the Hingham Library.**

FOLLOW-UP TO OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING

Jane Roberts sends her gratitude to the members of the Hingham Area Branch who attended her program. Our members contributed close to \$200 to the United Nations Population Fund via her 34 Million Friends of the Women of the World. Jane was thrilled.

The Pamela J Lincoln Recognition Award

Hopefully by now all of our members have been reminded (or made aware) of the *Pamela J. Lincoln Recognition Award*. If you were at the Pot Luck last month you most likely went home with an application package for the award.

Let us consider those who are eligible to apply for this \$300.00 award. Remember the student must be nominated by a member of the Hingham Area Branch of AAUW. When we look around for a likely candidate we almost always consider high school seniors, but the mature student who for whatever reason plans to continue her education is the one I would like to shine the spotlight on today.

There are many reasons why the mature student chooses to further her education. In today's uncertain job market many find themselves unemployed, and making the most of the situation, they return to college in order to increase their marketability. There are those who having spent years in finance, decide they will find a deeper satisfaction in nursing, even though this career switch will involve sacrifices. We know a few lawyers who are getting their masters in education. Again, job satisfaction and quality of life play a role in these mid-career switches.

The mature student is aware of the challenges that studying will add to her already busy life. Whether she is entering college for the first time, or furthering her academic accomplishments, she knows she must find time for this new experience in her already demanding life. Yet she brings with her a determination that has been acquired by life experiences. She has an appreciation for the value of education that is not fully understood by the high school senior.

\$300.00 may not be much, but it can make a difference in the life of the mature student. Yes it may not even buy a parking permit for a semester, but it will be an acknowledgement of our appreciation of her courage. It is

an affirmation that she is doing the right thing, even if it means juggling her roles of employee, or mother, or spouse, or all of the above. We are never too old to learn, so let us hope she gets the support of the members of the Hingham Area Branch of the AAUW, a fitting example of our mission in action.
Beatrice Kelly

SAVE THE DATE!

Holiday Dinner and Auction in a Basket

We have planned a *fun* dinner and a fund raising silent auction for AAUW Funds. Mark your calendars now and plan to come on Tuesday, December 6, from 5-9 pm. The festivities will take place at the Nantasket Beach Resort, 45 Hull Shore Drive, Hull. (Directions below)

The night begins at 5:30 with cocktails at a cash bar and a jazz piano, which will allow people to browse the auction items.

A sit down dinner at 6:45 will follow, with a plated dinner menu:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Warm Rolls & Butter | Garden Salad |
| Chicken Nantasket | Pasta Primavera (Vegetarian Option) |
| Rice pilaf | Vegetable Medley |
| Pumpkin Pie a la mode | Coffee, Tea, Decaf |

A silent auction will be held on all items.

Please plan to come--and bring a friend! Holiday attire is encouraged.

The cost of the dinner is \$25, and checks made out to AAUW Hingham Branch should be sent to Susan Mahan, 18 Grove St., East Weymouth, MA 02189

Please RSVP (as soon as possible) to Susan Mahan, Social Chairperson, at poetesssusan1@verizon.net or 781-335-6912

I hope to see everyone there--it should be a fun night!

Susan Mahan, Social Committee

Directions:

(from Boston)

- Take Route 93 South
- Take Exit 7 onto Route 3 South
- Take Exit 14 onto Route 228 North
- Follow 9 ½ miles crossing Route 53 and Route 3A, -Ocean will be on your right.
- Go through two sets of traffic lights and eight buildings - on your left is the Hotel
- Look for Nantasket Beach Hotel sign on left. Free beach parking across the street.

AAUW Funds is the general fund which supports AAUW's Mission:

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.
AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

One check once to support all this

[AAUW Funds](#) (#9110) is the name of our general fund, which supports all our charitable work. The programs and funds that you have always known are aggregated into this general fund. The five most commonly supported funds within the general AAUW funds are

- [The Legal Advocacy Fund](#) (#3999), which supports the protection of the legal rights of those who are facing discrimination. LAF programs include legal case support, [LAF Case Support Travel Grants](#), and [Campus Outreach Programs](#).
- [The Educational Opportunities Fund](#) (#4336), which supports educational and learning opportunities that give women a chance for a lifetime of success. Our programs include fellowships and grants, the [Fellows Alumni Initiative](#), and the [Undergraduate Scholarship Clearinghouse](#).
- [The Public Policy Fund](#) (#4337), which supports advocacy for public policies and laws that are fair to women. Public policy programs include [government relations](#), [civic engagement](#), and [field organizing](#).
- [The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund](#) (#9170), which supports AAUW research to provide analysis, data, and accurate information about issues that are important to women and girls. Past reports include [Behind the Pay Gap \(2007\)](#) and [Where the Girls Are \(2008\)](#). Upcoming reports will cover women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math and sexual harassment in the workplace.
- [The Leadership Programs Fund](#) (#4339), which supports programs that develop women's potential to lead in their schools, workplaces, communities, and country. Leadership programs include the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#), [Campus Action Projects](#), and [Elect Her](#).

Our branch goal is to make a \$2,000 donation to AAUW Funds. Won't you help by donating an Auction Basket?

Lynne O'Brien, Jack Conway Co.

Cell 781.366.5995

Office 781.925.1050

www.LynneOBrien.com, or LynneOBrien@JackConway.com

If we are to meet our goal for AAUW Funds, we need every member to donate.

Ideas for your Auction Basket:

Auction in a Basket -- all auction items will be presented in a basket: You may donate the basket items and the committee will create the basket, if needed, or package it yourself and we will pick them up!

Items to be requested and auctioned are:

Gift items

- Jewelry
- A "chocolate lover's" gift basket
- A "wine lover's" gift basket
- Basket of soap and hand cream
- A dieter's gift basket -- book & low cal items
- "sports evening snack basket"
- basket of children's books or games (could be then given as a holiday gift to a child)
- Concert or theatre tickets -- Company Theatre in Norwell will donate, if asked
- Gift certificate to a restaurant or hair or nails salon
- hand written gift certificate to take someone to: Plimouth Plantation, MFA, out to lunch, etc. where transportation is included with the price of the event
- hand written gift certificate to "make a cake or special desert" for 6-8 at a future mutually agreeable date

- a 1 or 2 night stay at a guest house or (your summer cottage) for 2
- a 1 hour piano lesson
- a 1 hour lesson on the computer
- 1 hour gift of time from a professional organizer
- a painting or piece of art work
- a 10x12 framed photo of your home
- a basket of holiday cookies/fudge/etc.
- a 2 night stay at the Black Bear Lodge, Waterville Valley, NH in a condo that sleeps 8 in 5 beds on a mutually agreeable date
- an afternoon at the beach with lunch included on a mutually agreeable date
- a 2 hour shopping trip to Derby St, Hanover Mall or Braintree Plaza -- transportation and companionship included
- a Mama Mia Italian Food basket (or other theme)
- A Mystery Lovers Book basket

a 2 hour sail boat ride in Hingham Harbor aboard a 34ft. Sabre with lunch for you and 3 guests (total of 4)

Items in yellow have already been donated to get us started. These are suggestions; be creative; have fun with this and donate for a good cause!!

All items should be valued at a minimum of \$10.

Please call me with questions, or concerns. A committee member will be pleased to pick up your basket or basket items.

Many thanks for making this auction and event a success! And lots of fun!!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We will be meeting at my home at 79 Turner Road Scituate for November book club. We will be reading, "Still Missing" by Chevy Stevens. Please call or e-mail with any questions and/or concerns.

[ed.note: no date or time was given]

Carol Sullivan-Hanley, 781-545-9341, csulliva@lesley.edu

ADVENTURES IN DINING

The Adventures in Dining group will meet at Spazio Restaurant, in Braintree, on Tuesday, November 29, at 6:30 p.m. If you can join us, please let me know at beesnees@comcast.net.

We won't be meeting in December due to the holidays.

Sondra Schmidt

Telephone: 781-383-1245, Facsimile: 781-383-8765, Cell: 781-864-2347

WRITING GROUP

The Writing Group will meet on Thursday December 1 at 7.30 at Brewed Awakening in Hingham. All are welcome!

Beatrice Kelly

PUBLIC POLICY

News

Social Security Recipients to Receive First Raise since 2009: Social Security recipients will see a 3.5 percent raise in their benefits this January – the first increase since 2009. An inflation measure adopted by Congress in the 1970s adjusts benefits to meet the increases in cost of living every year, but inflation was too low to cause an adjustment in 2010 and 2011. The projected 3.5 percent increase in January will amount to an average \$455 of extra income a year.

Unpaid Student Loans Will Exceed \$1 Trillion: A new report indicates that the amount of outstanding student loans will exceed \$1 trillion for the first time ever this year. The average full-time undergraduate student borrowed \$4,963 in 2010, up 63 percent from a decade earlier even after adjusting for inflation. With a greater loan burden, and a poor economy, the percentage of borrowers who defaulted on their student debts also rose, from 6.7 percent in 2007 to 8.8 percent in 2009.

FBI Moves to Broaden the Definition of Rape: A Federal Bureau of Investigation subcommittee announced this week that the definition of rape used by the agency should be revised and replaced with a broader, more accurate, definition. The subcommittee recommends the new definition include anal and oral rape, as well as rapes involving male victims. The current definition, which was written 80 years ago, only includes sexual assaults that involve force and vaginal penetration and has been criticized as being too narrow, resulting in the exclusion of thousands of rapes from the FBI's annual Uniform Crime Report. The proposal is subject to approval of the full advisory board in December.

Payroll Data Reveal Fewer Jobs, Less Pay: Data from 2010 payroll taxes reported to the Social Security Administration showed that there were fewer jobs and the existing jobs paid less last year, except at the very top where the number of people making more than \$1 million increased by 20 percent over 2009. The number of Americans with any work fell by more than a half-million from 2009 to less than 150.4 million people. The median paycheck fell 1.2 percent, down to \$26,364. That works out to \$507 a week, the lowest level since 1999 after adjusting for inflation.

Stimulus Funds Helped Higher Education Survive Recession: A report released by the Federal Education Budget Project showed that state governments used higher education funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support salaries and benefits and infrastructure improvements. The report found that in 2009-2011, the funds played a critical role in delaying or lessening the impact of the recession on state higher education institutions. The funds expire in 2012.

School Board in Louisiana Halts Single-Sex Classes: The school board in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, agreed to stop a middle school program that segregated core curricular classes by sex. The decision is part of a settlement between the Vermilion Parish School Board and clients represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Louisiana and Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. Additionally, the school board agreed not to institute sex-segregated programs at any of the 19 schools in Vermilion Parish through the 2016-2017 school year. The lawsuit said that the program at Rene A. Rost Middle School in Kaplan, Louisiana, violated federal laws including Title IX and the Equal Protection clause of the Constitution. AAUW believes single-sex education without proper attention to civil rights protections can reinforce problematic gender stereotypes, increase discrimination, and restrict the educational opportunities open to both girls and boys. Even where programs are established for both boys and girls separately, they have tended to be distinctly unequal, with fewer resources allocated for girls programs. As a result, both the Constitution and Title IX have placed strict limits on the availability of single-sex education, while at the same time explicitly allowing for single-sex programs that are carefully constructed to remedy existing or past discrimination. AAUW is proud of women's and girls' achievements and believes policies and reforms that allow women and men to excel are beneficial for society as a whole.

Report: Policymakers Must Consider Needs of Diverse Workforce: The Commission to Modernize Social Security released a report that said Social Security must be modernized to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse and economically insecure workforce. The report, *Plan for a New Future: The Impact of Social Security Reform on People of Color*, argues that changes to Social Security must consider the impact on workers and families of color who are more vulnerable to economic instability and far less likely to have generational wealth than white families. The commission is made up of national policy experts representing African-American, Asian-American, Latino, and Native American communities. The report showed that the majority of babies born in this country are now from minority racial groups. If this trend continues, the overall U.S. population is expected to become “majority-minority” by 2042.

Romney Legal Advisor Declares Gender Discrimination Nonexistent: An advisor to Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney told Newsweek that gender discrimination no longer exists. Former Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork, the co-chairman of Romney’s Justice Advisory Committee, said he believes that the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment should not apply to women because they are not discriminated against anymore. He also said married couples do not have a constitutional right to use contraception. Bork was nominated to the Supreme Court in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan, but failed to pass his Senate confirmation.

Teachers and First Responders Bill Halted: The U.S. Senate voted to block a bill that would provide \$35 billion to states and local governments to hire teachers and first responders. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act was a part of President Barack Obama’s \$447 billion American Jobs Act, which was also stopped in the Senate. All 47 Republicans voted against allowing the teachers’ bill to proceed to a full debate, arguing that temporary stimulus dollars for state and local governments would do little to bolster the private sector. Two Democrats, Sen. Ben Nelson (NE) and Sen. Mark Pryor (AR), also opposed proceeding with the measure, as did Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (I-CT).

Justice Department Says Supreme Court Cannot Strike Down Mandate Alone: The Department of Justice (DOJ) argued that if the Supreme Court strikes down the health care law’s individual mandate when it decides on its constitutionality, it also has to strike down other parts of the law. Lower courts have reached different conclusions about the mandate and whether it can be “severed” from the rest of the law. DOJ said the Supreme Court, if it struck down the mandate, would also have to invalidate policies that require insurers to cover people with pre-existing conditions and prohibit insurers from charging those people higher premiums, arguing that Congress’s intent in passing the legislation was to bind all three requirements together to ensure the reform’s affordability. Both sides have asked the high court to take the case as soon as possible.

Kansas Capital Repeals Domestic Violence Law: The Topeka, Kansas, City Council recently repealed the local law that made domestic violence a crime. Citing the need for budget cuts, the council voted 7-3 to shift Topeka’s responsibility for prosecuting domestic violence cases to the district attorney. About 30 abuse suspects have been freed from charges while officials battled over who was responsible for prosecution.

Report: Only Some Racial Groups See Increase in Educational Achievement: A recent report found that only some racial/ethnic groups are likely to attain more education than their elders. Among people ages 25 to 29, just Asian-Americans and whites have made gains in level of education over those 30 and older. The 2011 supplement of the *Minorities in Higher Education—Twenty-Fourth Status Report* from the American Council on Education also found that the high school completion rate has shown limited improvement and that college enrollment gaps have widened among racial/ethnic groups.

Report: More Students Turn to Private Loans: The Education Department’s National Center for Education Statistics released a report that found more students took out private loans while enrollment at for-profit colleges soared and the economy weakened. The report showed that between 2003-2004 and 2007-2008, the percentage of undergraduates with private student loans rose from 5 percent to 14 percent. The increase was steepest for students at for-profit colleges.

Antichoice Legislation Passes U.S. House: The U.S. House approved antichoice legislation that would ban women from using the health care reform law's tax subsidies to purchase insurance plans that cover abortions. The bill (H.R. 358), passed in a 251-172 vote, would also allow health-care institutions to refuse to provide abortions if they morally object. Fifteen Democrats voted for the bill, and two Republicans – Rep. Judy Biggert (IL) and Rep. Richard Hanna (NY) – voted against it. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) spoke passionately against the bill, saying that it would essentially allow caregivers to not treat a woman who is dying on a hospital floor.

Senate Stalls Obama's Jobs Bill: Senate Republicans and two Democrats – Ben Nelson (NE) and Jon Tester (MT) – united to keep President Barack Obama's \$447 billion jobs bill (S. 1660) from the 60 votes required for full consideration. The vote was 50 to 49. Obama's plan includes payroll tax cuts for workers and small businesses; money for schools, roads, and to hire teachers; and tax credits for businesses that hire veterans and the long-term unemployed. Senate Republicans revealed their jobs package, which includes repeal of health care reform and financial regulatory reform.