

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

President: Patricia Laidler (781) 878-6242

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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

DECEMBER 2011

CALENDAR

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	Declutter Bugs, 4:30 PM Paneraa, Derby Street, Hingham
December 6, Tuesday	Holiday Social
December 13, Tuesday	Book Discussion Group, 7:00 PM Home of Lynn O'Brien

Holiday Dinner, Jazz Piano and Silent Auction

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, 5-9pm with dinner at 7pm
Nantasket Beach Resort - Conference Center
45 Hull Shore Drive, Hull MA 02045

Holiday Dress Recommended!

Auction items include:

4 Live Lobsters! -- date arranged with the Lobsterman
4 Tickets to "A Christmas Carol"
2 Tickets to the Bruins Game in February
2 Tickets to a Spring Choral Concert
Dozens of Freshly Baked Cookies
Gift Certificates to Local Restaurants

Sparkling Jewelry and Framed Art
Certificates to Learn Spanish, the Piano or Guitar
Baskets of: Italian Wine & Food; Chocolate; Apple Pie; Red & White Wine
2 Night Get-a-Way for 2-6 people in NH
Certificates for: Kayaking; Sailing, a day "at the Beach"
Roast Pork Dinner for Four

And more -- Over 50 items in all!

Any questions, call Lynne OBrien at 781-366-5995

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you are reading this, our fabulous Holiday Social will be right around the corner. Lynne O'Brien and Susan Mahan, as well as many others, have worked very hard to make this a fabulous and fun evening. I hope to see you all there and have a chance to wish you my best for the holiday season and all year long!

On to more serious matters, on the heels of the very successful AAUW State Conference on Human Trafficking held on October 29th, Massachusetts lawmakers last month gave final approval to a bill that would impose life sentences for pimps and others found guilty of trafficking children for sex or forced labor. The bill would treat children and others forced into prostitution as victims instead of offenders and establish a panel to study ways to prevent trafficking. I think we can all be proud that our organization's commitment to putting the spotlight on the fair treatment of women and girls was, in no small way, helpful in bringing this legislation to fruition in our state.

Finally, I was reminded at our last meeting how many of our members have been traveling around the world. Ginnie Giordano and Deanne Noiseux and Lynn Howard have all been to China in recent months and Jane Street is just back from a whirlwind tour of the Balkan states. Carol Sullivan-Hanley recently returned from what sounds like a great trip to Greece; a trip she won at the National Convention last spring. When you see these members, don't forget to ask about their travels. Our members bring a wealth of experiences to our branch and we're the richer for it!

Just in case I don't see you at the Holiday Social, please accept my warmest wishes for a peaceful holiday season!

Pat Laidler

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Book group will meet on Tuesday December 13, 2011 at the home of Lynne O'Brien 36 Hillside Drive in Cohasset at 7:00. We will be reading *A Fork in the Road*, by Dennis Hamill.

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Our "Adventures in Dining" group will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 6:30 p.m. Our November choice is Spazio Restaurant and Bar, in Braintree. If you can join us for a taste of Italy, please let me know at beesnees@comcast.net.
Sondra Schmidt

Here is the Spazio website: <http://spaziodining.com/>

beesnees@comcast.net

Telephone: 781-383-1245

Facsimile: 781-383-8765

Cell: 781-864-2347

DECLUTTER BUGS

We are meeting on Dec 1 at 4:30 at Panera in Derby Shops Hingham.

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.

PUBLIC POLICY

NEWS

School Interventions Reduce Dating Violence by 50 Percent: The Department of Justice released the findings of a study that found that school-level interventions reduced dating violence by up to 50 percent among students in middle school. Successful interventions included increasing faculty and security presence in school zones known to encourage dating violence, implementing temporary school-based restraining orders, and upping the presence of posters encouraging students to report incidents to school officials.

Hate Crime Statistics Document Racial Bias: The Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2010 Hate Crime Statistics revealed that almost half of the incidents reported in 2010 were motivated by racial bias. The 2010 data, based on information from law enforcement agencies throughout the nation, indicated that 6,628 criminal incidents involving 7,699 offenses were based on bias toward a particular race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or physical or mental disability. Roughly 70 percent of the 3,725 single-bias hate crime offenses that were racially motivated were motivated by bias against African Americans.

Supreme Court to Hear Challenge to Health Care Reform: The Supreme Court decided that it will review President Barack Obama's health care law this spring, placing its decision just months ahead of the 2012 election. The lawsuit, brought against the administration by 26 states and the National Federation of Independent Businesses, challenges the constitutionality of the law's individual mandate. The justices will decide whether the individual mandate is constitutional and, if it's not, how much of the overall health care law must be struck down.

In addition to ruling on the individual mandate, the court will review the Medicaid expansion, which requires the states to expand Medicaid or drop out of the program entirely. The challenge to Medicaid expansion could also make vulnerable programs such as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act, the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Cabinet Member Supports Marriage Equality: U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan became the first sitting cabinet secretary in history to openly support marriage equality. In an interview in Metro Weekly, Donovan said he was proud to be a New Yorker this summer when marriage equality passed there.

Federal Education Revenue Loses \$9.8 Billion to Corporate Tax Evasion

An analysis from the National Education Association found that from 2008 to 2010 the federal government lost \$222.7 billion in corporate tax avoidance, \$9.8 billion of which would have gone to public schools and colleges. The analysis, based on a report by the Center for Tax Justice, found that lost revenue could have provided 126,568 new education jobs and enrolled 446,655 impoverished children in preschools around the country.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATES

Super Committee Deadline Looms: The deficit reduction super committee is struggling to reach a deal on a plan to reduce deficits by at least \$1.2 trillion over the next decade. The committee of six Republicans and six Democrats must vote by Nov. 23. A failure to pass any agreement would result in \$1.2 trillion in automatic across-the-board spending cuts starting in 2013, evenly divided between defense and non-defense spending. The committee was established through this summer's budget deal between President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH).

Balanced Budget Amendment Fails: The House voted 261-165 to reject an amendment to the Constitution that would have required a balanced budget. The vote needed a two-thirds majority to pass. Twenty-five Democrats voted in favor of the amendment, and four Republicans joined the majority of the Democrats in voting no. This amendment was similar to a version that passed the House in 1995 by a 300-132 vote and then failed in the Senate by one vote. The debt limit agreement brokered in August between Congress and President Barack Obama required that both chambers vote on the amendment before the end of the year. The Senate has yet to take up the amendment. Obama voiced his strong opposition to H.J. Res. 2 earlier this week, saying in a

statement that a balanced-budget amendment would “undercut the Federal Government’s ability to meet its core commitments to seniors, middle class families and the most vulnerable, while reducing our ability to invest in our future.”

Eleven States Submit Requests for No Child Left Behind Waivers: Eleven states met the first of three deadlines to submit applications for waivers from provisions of No Child Left Behind. The states – Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee – will know by mid-January if their proposals have been approved. In September, President Barack Obama announced the waiver program, which was designed to give states more flexibility to meet standards. Thirty-nine states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have signaled their desire for waivers.

Veterans Job Bill to Become Law: President Barack Obama said he will sign a bill passed by the House and Senate that will offer tax credits to businesses that hire unemployed veterans and repeal a tax provision that was viewed as a potential burden to government contractors. The bill, which represents one element of the president’s broad-scale job creation proposal, is the first to be agreed on by both parties.

In Pay Practices Case, District Court Rules in Favor of Labor Department: The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has ruled that United Space Alliance LLC must provide the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs with compensation information requested for the company’s Cape Canaveral facility. OFCCP requested the compensation information after an initial review of the company’s pay practices raised concern. The company refused to provide the records or to allow OFCCP access to its facility to gather the requested information.

Bill Proposed to Combat Sexual Assault in Military: Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) proposed a new bill, the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act or STOP (H.R.3435), to reform how sexual assaults and rape in the military are treated. The law would create the Sexual Assault Oversight and Response Office, which would handle the reporting, oversight, investigation, and survivor care. Speier also released a video from new organization Protect Our Defenders that shares stories of survivors.

As reported in Washington Update last month, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released a study that said 82 of 583 service members surveyed had been sexually harassed in the last year, but only four said they formally reported the incident. The study found that one of the reasons a service member may not report an incident is because it would not be taken seriously. The study said the Department of Defense must improve its commitment to preventing sexual harassment.

DC Leaders Reject Budget Autonomy due to Abortion Ban: District Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, and City Council Chairman Kwame R. Brown decided to reject a federal bill that would have granted Washington, D.C., more autonomy over its budget at the expense of women’s access to often-necessary health care. The bill, introduced earlier this week by House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA), would have placed a permanent ban on the use of district funds for abortions. D.C. residents strongly disapprove of such a ban – many feel that strict limitations on self-rule deny them rights enjoyed by most Americans. District budgets are subject to the approval of Congress, a fact that has long been challenged by residents.