



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
OCTOBER 2010**

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

**SUSAN THOMSON: "MOVING ON: COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHS OF YOUNG WOMEN AFTER RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT"
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 7:00 PM
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Dr. Susan Thomson will be our speaker. She is currently the Director of Research at Germaine Lawrence, a residential treatment program for adolescent girls in Arlington, MA. Germaine Lawrence offers long-term programs for girls with histories of behaviors such



as physical aggression, self-injury, eating restriction, fire-setting, and sexual aggression. Susan's research analyzes outcomes after discharge by incorporating both quantitative and qualitative approaches, including participant-observation. Overall, she is committed to making the research process of benefit to all concerned: clinical and milieu staff, administrators, families/guardians and the girls themselves.

Prior to working at Germaine Lawrence, Susan taught cultural anthropology at Middlesex Community College and was an associate at the Center for Women and Work at UMass-Lowell. While working in Lowell, she did ethnographic research with the Southeast Asian com-

munity and with elderly women at an assisted living facility. Susan's earlier doctoral research focused on ethnographic fieldwork in rural Bihar, India, studying the politics and artistic development of Seraikela Chhau dance. She continues to keep in touch with this area by visiting regularly with her two children.

Susan got her Ph.D. at Harvard University, M.M. at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and did her undergraduate work at Mt. Holyoke College.

Come and hear this very interesting woman talk about the impact of residential treatment on the futures of young women.

Inside this issue:

October Program	1
Co-Presidents' Message	2
Book Group	3
Photos from May Dinner	3
Legal Advocacy Fund	3
Lines from Lois Pulliam	4
Do You Remember When...?	5
Newsletter Deadline	6
Editorial	6

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Sue Giurleo and Dot Hart Rand

There are a multitude of disasters and troubling events that affect our lives this season. Among the many worthwhile causes, what are you supporting? Have the needs of women taken a back seat despite the requests of Catherine Schindewolf, Public Policy Chair on the State Board? What are we doing with our membership? Is our mission taking a back seat among all the issues? It seldom makes the local or national news.

Speaking of mission, on October 23 you will have two opportunities to hear Lisa Maatz speak at either Brooksby Village in Peabody or the Holiday Inn in Taunton. Our mission is the topic entitled: **Mission Not Impossible: Getting What You Need to Make It Happen.** Breakfast will be served in Peabody and lunch will be served in Taunton. Read all about it in the *BayStater*. This will be excellent preparation for the conference.

The second important AAUW event you will find in the *BayStater* is information about the conference on November 6. I hope you will attend. I have a conflict on that date but I will choose to attend the conference entitled **Education, Employment, Empowerment: the Global Prospects for Women.** I will

be at Babson College, in Wellesley. It will be a long day, covering both Global Issues and Massachusetts Women. We hope to meet some of the recipients of AAUW International Fellowships. The Keynote Speaker, Edith Hunt, has an amazing background.

As an incentive, our Board has agreed to set aside \$25 for every member who attends to help cover the cost of \$85.00. As a member of AAUW you will receive an official invitation to the conference via email around September 30th. If you prefer not to use email, you can mail in your registration, which is found on Page 8 of the *BayStater*. This newsletter also contains the agenda for November 6 and the choices for breakout sessions.

Car pools will be arranged for both events, so please don't let transportation keep you home! As I stressed at our meeting last Wednesday, **Please read your copy of the *BayStater*!**

I wish to thank Lois Pulliam, Public Policy, Ruth Ladd, Newsletter Editor, and Sue Giurleo for their valuable contributions to the newsletter on this important topic. Dot

**Mission Not Impossible: Getting
What You Need to Make It Happen.**

**Education, Employment, Empowerment:
the Global Prospects for Women**

BOOK GROUP

Book Group is meeting in October on Wednesday, October 20 at 1 pm at the home of Jeanne Stockdale in Bedford, 781-275-8345. We are reading "Enrique's Journey" by Sonya Nazario and Janet Khattab is presenting the background. All members are welcome to join us.

PHOTOS FROM MAY DINNER

(thanks to Catherine Boyd)



Ellen Given, Lois Pulliam, Dot Hart Rand, Marion Kilson



Jeanne Stockdale, Robin DeMott, ??, Nancy Moore, and Joan Zinderman

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund adopted a new case in July, *Foltz et al. v. Delaware State University*. The class-action suit alleges that DSU failed to provide equal athletic opportunities to female students, as mandated by Title IX. On October 18, the case will go to trial at the U.S. District Court for Delaware. Read the AAUW press release for more information.

In August, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the largest employment discrimination lawsuit in American history, involving more than a million female workers, current and former, at Wal-mart and Sam's Club stores. In April, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled that the lawsuit could proceed as a class action. If the Supreme Court also allows the suit to proceed as a class action, thousands of individuals—who may not otherwise have been able to afford legal fees—will be able to seek redress. LAF is watching this case and looking for opportunities to support the plaintiffs.



Dot Hart Rand giving Robin DeMott AAUW-MA's Outstanding Leader Award



Bedford H.S. madrigal singers with their teacher

LINES FROM LOIS PULLIAM, PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR

If you've read your recent BAY STATER you know we have two great opportunities in October and November to beef up our information on women's issues around the world, the country, and in Massachusetts. Catherine Schindewolf, our state Public Policy chair, and Lisa Maatz, her counterpart at the national level, are reminding us to consider the needs of women in this particularly partisan political season.

On Saturday, October 23, you'll have two chances to hear Lisa Maatz speak--at either Brooksby Village in Peabody in the morning, with breakfast, or the Holiday Inn in Taunton in the afternoon, with lunch. Read all about it in your BAYSTATER. Our AAUW mission is the topic: "Mission Not Impossible: Getting What You Need to Make It Happen." Lisa is a dynamite speaker, so be sure to catch her in action.

Then on Saturday, November 6, there will be a blockbuster of a day-long conference at Babson College in Wellesley, entitled "Education, Employment, Empowerment: The Global Prospects for Women." The focus here will be on both global issues and Massachusetts women. We'll be able to meet some of the AAUW International Fellowships recipients, and will hear outstanding keynote speaker, Edith Hunt. Special invitations will be coming out via e-mail for the latter event late this month.

I know, I know, two meetings only two weeks apart can make a mess of our engagement calendars, but these are special. I'm changing some plans to get there (with carpooling, natch!) and I hope you will, too. After all, this is good old autumn, with no snow or ice to contend with. So, please plan to join me for these two inspiring meetings, and think about why we as AAUW members need to be following the issues.

For example: A quick look at any current newspaper will tell you that there is still a need for women on college and university trustee boards, as that helps with faculty hires. Yes, that includes WOMEN faculty.

Also, there is still a need for more women on corporate boards. They are 50% of the work force, but are outnumbered six to one by men on corporate boards. Maybe that's why corporations are so top-heavy today.

Or, do we really think we have reached "pay equity"? We're still just inching along compared to men's pay. Watch for another Equal Pay Day in the spring...AAUW is working on this topic nationwide.

AAUW has been plugging away for gender-neutrality in Small Business Life Insurance, and we STILL haven't gotten there, despite years of testifying at the State House. Some issues are very close to home.

Or, on the private front, we need to be aware that in Utah (long after Roe v. Wade) a woman may be charged with murder for a "suspicious miscarriage". AAUW, ACLU, and AMA have all expressed concern, but Utah and other states continue to try to circumvent reproductive choice, and that is supposed to be allowed by law since 1973.

AAUW in its winter 2009-2010 issue of OUTLOOK printed a great chart called "The Numbers Don't Add Up":

- 77c Women earn 77c for every dollar earned by men
- 66+ At ages 66 and older, women are twice as likely as men to be poor
- 17% Women make up 51% of the population, but only
- 17% of elected officials are women
- 1 yr Just one year out of college, working women already earn less than their male colleagues earn.

100% UNACCEPTABLE!

Clearly, there's work to be done, and we women had better be doing it! An important election is coming up, and we need to keep an eye on the issues as well as the candidates. More women voting means more real participation in the outcome, and more EDUCATED women candidates could be a good thing. However, one-issue ranters of either gender are wild cards in both political parties, so we have to watch out for the "pretty face."

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN...?



May 5, 2005—Installation of officers. In this photo: Patricia Ho (Regional Director), Jeanne Stockdale, Lou Smith, and Dot Smith



May 5, 2005—Greek Dancing after dinner



May 8, 2008—New officers: Midge Nealon-Seibert, Marion Kilson, Janet Khattab, Mary Brzezinski, Ruth Ladd, Robin DeMott, Ellen Given



Bedford-Lexington Area Branch
Ruth Ladd, Editor
15 Pine Knoll Road
Lexington, MA 02420-1206

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.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: October 15, 2010

EDITORIAL

Dot wrote in the Co-Presidents' message and Lois wrote in her Public Policy message about the upcoming state-wide meetings and programs. The idea is that we, Bedford-Lexington Area Branch of AAUW, can't just sit back and let AAUW's paid staff in Washington and volunteer folks on the state level ensure that AAUW's mission is publicized and that steps are taken to actually "break through barriers for women and girls." As you can see by AAUW's Value Promise in the upper right corner of this page, "breaks" is an active verb for the AAUW community of which we are all part.

So what does this mean for us? Since I do the newsletter, it is my role to provide information to both our members and others interested in AAUW—the newsletter is posted on the AAUW-MA website (did you know that??) and I e-mail it to about 40 women who have either expressed interest in AAUW, where once members, attended a meeting/program as a guest, or otherwise managed to get on my distribution list (hopefully at least some of them are reading this!). Jeanne Stockdale has been doing publicity for us by sending announcements of our programs to local papers (which may or may not print it). Isn't there something else we could do other than just invite people to join us for a program?

Here's an idea that other organizations have used: How about we choose one or two topics that are central to AAUW's mission (pay equity, for example) and have one or two people write a letter each week to their local paper about it (no more than one person per paper each week)? I know that I am more likely to read the shorter Letters to the Editor than the long ones so short and sweet works. Perhaps a small group could come up with a set of talking points which the writing team could use for their own personal wording. There is good info available on the AAUW website so heavy-duty research wouldn't be needed. One "bullet" would be that AAUW is working on the issue and what AAUW's mission is.

I would be interested to hear what people think about this and if they are interested in participating. It's a nice short and easy way to help!

—Ruth Ladd