



# Nutmeg News

## A Holiday Message from our State President



*I want to wish all of our AAUW/CT members and their families a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. Thanks for all that you do to make this a vibrant organization, a catalyst for positive change in our communities and in our state. May the new year bring us all closer to realizing our common vision of a more just and equitable world for all people and to achieving our noble mission of education and equity for all women and girls. Together, with other women and men of good will, we can do this.*

*Carol Virostek*

## WHAT YOUR ACTIONS SAY ABOUT YOU Message from your Regional Director and Association Board Member Patricia Ho

Our New England Regional Conference was a tremendous success with over seventy members and community guests in attendance. Many thanks to Carol Virostek and to Gail Smith of Vermont for conceptualizing program content and coordinating the theme of “Finding and Using Our Public Voices.”

At the conference, we proudly welcomed former Governor Madeleine Kunin and Dr. Karen Houseknecht, who described how they used their public voices in speaking for equity. Each referred to her unique preparation and experiences – Governor Kunin in the political sphere and Dr. Karen Houseknecht in her corporate work as scientist encountering gender barriers. The resolute courage of these remarkable role models has inspired other women to action, despite overt and covert obstacles.

The afternoon session facilitated discussion focusing on program planning, membership and adaptive organizational structures. The day’s activities strengthened the collegiality and sharing among our New England members and highlighted the value of AAUW’s work. Thank you to Connecticut members who participated in this interaction, while enjoying scenic autumn in Vermont.

Through your outstanding initiative in establishing the CT WAGE Hub and the memorable presentation of the Progress in Equity Award to Charter Oak State College, you as AAUW members and supporters

are translating our mission into action. By being a part of AAUW, we belong to a community which breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

You have demonstrated that AAUW is a community –

- \* which offers women a public voice to speak for the common good
- \* which unites individuals through your advocacy and your partnerships with other groups who share our vision
- \* which promotes leadership in young women through your NCCWSL scholarships

Thank you so much for your hard work. Our goals can't be achieved without you!

[PatriciaHoAAUWMA@aol.com](mailto:PatriciaHoAAUWMA@aol.com)



### AAUW NAMES NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Ruth Z. Sweetser*, President, AAUW and *Barbara L. O'Connor*, President, AAUW Educational Foundation

After completing a national search with the assistance of the search consulting firm Association Strategies, Inc., AAUW's Search Committee is excited to announce **Linda D. Hallman** will be appointed AAUW Executive Director, effective January 7, 2008.

We are pleased to introduce Linda Hallman, who joins AAUW after a long history of Washington DC area association and foundation executive level leadership experience. She is currently serving as Vice President of Policy and Government Strategy, External and Member Relations, with National Alliance for Health Information Technology (NAHIT), from their Washington, DC office. Highlights of Linda's extensive prior nonprofit experience include service as Executive Director of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) and AMWA Foundation, as well as President and Chief Executive Officer of American Horticultural Society. Further, she served in the United States Army and U.S. Army Band and Chorus, receiving an honorable discharge. Linda earned her master's degree (M.A.) in Organizational Management from George Washington University and bachelor's degree (B.A.) in Music Education from Indiana University. She has acquired extensive continuing professional development and is affiliated with relevant organizations for professionals in the field. In addition, Linda has been an AAUW member.

On behalf of both the Association and Educational boards of directors, we are most appreciative of the efforts and commitment of the Search Committee members representing both boards and the general membership -- Kathleen Cha, Carolyn Garfein, Patricia Ho, David Kirkwood, Ronni Nivala, and Linda Silakoski. In addition, we thank Association Strategies – Pamela Kaul and Jim Zaniello – for their recruitment efforts to achieve a successful conclusion to the search. We are confident you will share our excitement about Linda joining AAUW's leadership team.

More information will be shared as we prepare for the Executive Director transition.

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## The Phoenix is Rising - Continued - Carol Virostek

My tenure as AAUW Connecticut president has coincided with the period of time during which the American Association of University Women has been re-envisioning and reinventing itself. The most significant and memorable moment in the Strategic Process thus far was the unanimous vote at the 2007 Convention in Phoenix that forever changed the structure of our organization as we have known it. What we have now in place is a clear, strategic direction for AAUW and a coherent, unified program/membership/marketing-development plan (PMMD) designed to make the best use of our personnel and resources and to ensure the future of the organization. But the adoption of Action Goals for July 1 – December 31, 2007 was just the beginning of the steady evolution of the new AAUW, which will continue through this current biennium. Many more changes are in the works.

To be honest, it is both exciting and a bit scary. Late in the summer I was appointed national College University Relations Chair. As such I also have become a member of both the Program Development and the Membership Committees. In addition, I was asked by Ruth Sweetser to serve on the Intermediate Structures Task Force, a group charged with developing a plan to determine how best to link the grassroots/virtual and national organizations. As a result of these connections, I have been privy to and participant in a number of conference calls in which a host of critical topics have been discussed. The work is not yet finished and final recommendations have not been made, but I can summarize the focus of all committee and task force efforts in single phrase: *It's all about the mission.* Everyone will know who AAUW is and what we stand for.

Although the PMMD plan is still in process, some wonderful progress has already been made, and several important action goals have been completed.

- First is the launching of the new, user friendly AAUW Website, the crux of our communications network.
- In addition, our finances are in great shape. Both Association and the Education Foundation received glowing reports from the auditors
- Another is the development of new model for a Leadership Training Conference, a plan overseen by our Regional Director Patricia Ho that will include far more participants than the former Conference of State Leaders.
- The most recent development is the selection of Linda Hallman as the new Executive Director. She will assume her position in January 2008.

As state president I have been much aware of the courageous and determined women who have led us through this long journey of transformation. First and foremost is Michele Wetherald, who spoke to us at our 2007 Convention in Bridgeport, and who has done a superb job as Executive Director. We understand her desire to move on, or as she says, “to live in the same state as my husband,” but we will greatly miss her. But we will continue to have steadfast leadership of Ruth Sweetser, Association President, and Barbara O’Connor, Educational Foundation President. They and the new Executive Director, along with the standing committees and special task forces, have their work cut out for them. We wish them well, but have great confidence that AAUW of tomorrow is in very good hands.

## **Pay Equity and the Gender Wage Gap**

Susan Hoover

CT WAGE Coordinator

[susnhoover@aol.com](mailto:susnhoover@aol.com)

“Just one year out of college, women working full time already earn less than their male colleagues (80 percent), even when they work in the same field. Ten years after graduation, women fall farther behind, earning only 69 percent as much as men earn.”

American Association of University Women – Educational Foundation Research Report  
*Behind the Pay Gap*

**Surely one of the most vexing issues for women is  
the wage gap and what we can do to change it.**

Toward that end, AAUW is taking on an action project that is mission-based. That is, we will do things that will help women move closer to pay equity in the workplace. We’re calling it **CT WAGE**.

On a beautiful Saturday in September more than 50 Connecticut women gathered to reflect on the wage discrimination each of us have endured. The leader was Annie Houle who is the National Director of WAGE Campus and Community Initiatives. More importantly, we began strategizing about ways to improve conditions for our daughters and granddaughters and their families.

Evelyn Murphy, author of Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men and What To Do About It has written: “Over her lifetime, a woman will lose between \$700,000 and \$2 million.

**DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO YOU.”**



The **Start Smart Campus Initiative** captured the interest of many of us who want to be trained to conduct these sessions on college campuses. These seminars, developed by author Evelyn Murphy, teach women how to negotiate their first job title and salary. To be trained to be a trainer you will attend a campus seminar, review the curriculum/script, and afterward meet with Evelyn Murphy or Annie Houle to fine tune your presentation technique. There are only two criteria for being trained: be passionate about the issue of equal pay for women and have some experience conducting educational or training sessions. Plans are underway for the pilot seminar to be conducted at Central Connecticut State University in February or March. Please contact me if you’d like to participate.

**Other projects branches have started include .....**

The New Britain Branch didn’t waste any time getting its Essay Contest into the schools in Berlin and New Britain, and some generous AAUW members contributed the prize money.

The Bridgeport Branch is organizing a panel discussion to be held in the spring that will be open to the public addressing topics such as pay equity and financial security.

The Storrs/Willimantic Branch is working with students at Eastern Connecticut State University on the gender wage gap issue.

The Danbury Branch is working with an after-school program for middle school girls to teach them about the importance of making informed choices regarding their school work and personal lives

The Danbury Branch is also planning for a workshop on the issue of pay equity.

The New London Branch is establishing a committee to plan local activities on the issue of pay equity.

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women is taking the lead on organizing **Equal Pay Day** awareness on **Tuesday, April 22, 2008**.

### **Other ideas that have been suggested that could be adapted to your branch .....**

To get the conversation started, book groups or school classes could read the AAUW research and Evelyn Murphy's book for discussion.

You could write an OpEd piece for your local newspaper based on the research and the book.

What else can we do? The possibilities are endless. It's up to us.



## **Leadership Opportunities - Open Positions for State Officers**

*Carol Blauvelt*

As interim chair of the Nominating Committee I invite all members in Connecticut to consider themselves or someone they know for the Connecticut/American Association of University Women, Inc positions available for the term beginning July 1, 2008. The following four (4) officer positions are open and the term for each is two years:

### **President**

### **Program Vice-President**

### **Corresponding Secretary**

### **Public Policy Chair**

Job descriptions for these positions are available on the Connecticut/AAUW website: [www.aauwct.com](http://www.aauwct.com)

If you are interested in one of these positions or would like to nominate someone for one of these positions, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee:

Carol Blauvelt	203-966-7059	<a href="mailto:cablauvelt@aol.com">cablauvelt@aol.com</a>
Judi Polizzotti	203-268-2014	<a href="mailto:judyoli@hotmail.com">judyoli@hotmail.com</a>
Cathy Branch-Stebbins	860-346-0339	<a href="mailto:cbranch@theconnectioninc.org">cbranch@theconnectioninc.org</a>
Mary Ann Kistner	860-526-3621	<a href="mailto:makistner@comcast.net">makistner@comcast.net</a>

**Gail Nordmoe Named Executive VP/Secretary of National AAUW!**

*Linda Avgerinos - [lpembrook@aol.com](mailto:lpembrook@aol.com)*

Gail Nordmoe, Ed.D., our Diversity Issues Chair, was elected Executive Vice President/Secretary of AAUW, the second highest office in the organization, at the national convention in Phoenix, Ariz.

A lifelong educator and longtime national AAUW leader, Gail is a passionate advocate not only for education and equity for women and girls, but also for acceptance and racial justice for all people. A well-known Leader-on-Loan, Gail served two previous terms as Secretary of AAUW and another as Program Vice President of the Educational Foundation.

“Her history of leadership at the national as well as the state level has enriched our organization in many ways,” said State President Carol R. Virostek, PhD. “As a panelist at AAUW’s African American Roundtable in New London and the 2004 AAUW Convention, and as facilitator of our 2006 Summer Retreat, Gail has helped us to understand better how to become a more inclusive and welcoming organization for widely diverse groups of prospective members.”

At her election, Gail said that she aimed to be a catalyst in assisting AAUW in continuing to be a premier organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls worldwide.

“I firmly believe that the work of the national organization for the past 125 years has had a profound impact on shaping the views of America on major issues related to women and girls,” she stated. “AAUW research has influenced my personal and professional work. The organization serves as a bridge to empower women and girls while bringing about public policy and systemic change.”

Gail is Assistant Professor in the College of Education and Health Professions at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Conn. She has served as Executive Director of the Richard R. Green Institute for Teaching and Learning in Minneapolis and as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for three public school systems.

Gail received her B.A. from the University of Illinois, and her M. Ed. and Ed.D. from Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

## Charter Oak State College Program Wins AAUW Award

*Polly Silva*, silvapm@comcast.net

*“I couldn’t believe that someone cared enough about me to help me get my college education,”* said one WIT (Women in Transition) graduate. She went on to say that attending WIT and earning her college degree had given her confidence, improved her self-esteem, helped her advance in her job. In addition, she recently bought a house!

This is just one of the many success stories that have come out of Charter Oak College’s WIT program – and the reason why WIT earned AAUW’s 2007 *Progress in Equity Award*.

On Monday, November 19, AAUW leaders Lauren Kamnik, Director, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund and Dr. Carol Virostek, President AAUW Connecticut presented the Progress in Equity Award to Dr. Merle Harris, President of Charter Oak State College and Delores Bell, WIT Coordinator.

Connecticut state government leaders Laura Fanelli, Director of Public Affairs for the Lieutenant Governor, Valerie Lewis, Commissioner of Higher Education, and a representative from Congressman Chris Murphy’s office were on hand – along with about 15 – 20 members of AAUW, WIT program participants and alumni, and many other WIT supporters. Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) graciously hosted the event and commended Charter Oak’s achievements.

The Progress in Equity Award recognizes college and university programs that promote equity for women. Given by the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), the Progress in Equity Award recognizes programs throughout the United States for their progressive and innovative advancements on behalf of women faculty, staff, and/or students. Now in its 20th year, the award has provided \$111,700 to 40 schools and programs across the country.

Merle Harris, president of Charter Oak, said, *“We are pleased that a unique program that has helped low-income, single mothers earn a college degree and achieve self-sufficiency has received this recognition.”*

The WIT program provides higher education opportunities for low-income, underemployed single mothers to make the transition from low-paid work to a college degree through distance education. WIT provides students with loan of a laptop computer, dial-up service, books, and academic, career, and personal counseling.

Coincidentally, AAUW members were instrumental in the founding of Charter Oak State College, lobbying for an educational institution designed to meet the needs of nontraditional female students.

A current WIT student noted, *“With the laptop, I am able to do my work on my lunch breaks, at home, or any time. I can get my work done and still be at home to support my children.”*

Several participants brought their children to the award ceremonies. These children showed pride in their mother's accomplishments. The children provide additional support and encouragement. In return, they have a wonderful role model. According to Delores Bell, WIT Coordinator, while it is a distance learning program, WIT organizes events on occasion to bring the students and their children together.

Every student and program alumni we talked to credited Delores Bell, WIT Coordinator, with providing them with the encouragement and support to continue the program. Ms. Bell credited the students and their families for their fortitude and commitment to achieving their education. "It is the efforts and dedication of the students that make WIT a success," says Ms. Bell.

Charter Oak's Women in Transition program is funded by donations and grants. For more on Charter Oak's Women in Transition program – or to donate to the program – go to <http://www.charteroak.edu/Prospective/Admissions/wit.cfm>.



### **A Reminder from State Educational Foundation Chair**

*Mary Ann Kistner*

Just a reminder that the branch contributions to the AAUW Foundation are due by the end of the year to be credited in 2007. I would suggest that you try to mail your contributions to the Foundation no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. The address of the Foundation is 1111 Sixteenth Street, Washington, DC 20036. If you need a copy of the form to submit to the Association, please let me know at [makistner@comcast.net](mailto:makistner@comcast.net) or (860) 526-3621. I will send it to you immediately.

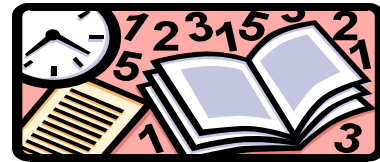
Each branch should have gotten a copy of the contribution form as well as other important information at the fall meeting in Waterbury, or from your branch president, who picked up the information at that meeting. I want to remind you that the state has recommended a contribution to the Educational Foundation equivalent to \$25.00 per member be made from each branch. This remains only a suggestion, and I know some branches will contribute a greater amount, while others will submit less.

At the fall meeting I suggested that some branches may want to contribute to fund the Eleanor Jenkins fellowship which is fund number 4101. Sue Harkness prepared an informational handout which was part of the fall EF packet and stated that the remaining amount to be funded for this fellowship, about \$40,000, could be completed over the next several years. I would like to encourage you, if you have not

already sent in your contribution, to support the Jenkins fund, 4101. The state executive committee also recently met and is supporting contributions to the Eleanor Jenkins Fund and will continue to support the funding for the coming year(s).

Just a reminder to send me copies of the form and checks that you send to the Educational Foundation. My address is 29 Josie Perkins Lane, Lyme, CT 06371. If I have copies, I can keep my information complete and make sure that your contribution corresponds with the print-out that I receive from the Educational Foundation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.



### **Legal Advocacy Foundation Update:**

*AAUW EdEqChange #5 - Mid-October Briefing*

Submitted by Carol Blauvelt

#### **Two Court Wins for LAF-Supported Plaintiffs in September**

The Tenth Circuit ruled in favor of LAF-supported plaintiff [Lisa Simpson](#) in her suit against the University of Colorado, and an appeals court judge upheld [Laura Violand](#)'s \$280,955 jury award against George Washington University. Visit [LAF on the web](#) to find out more about these cases.

#### **AAUW Awarded Independent Charities Seal of Excellence**

AAUW recently received the [Independent Charities of America Seal of Excellence](#), awarded to organizations having the highest standards of accountability and effectiveness. Only about 5 percent of charities in the United States meet the criteria necessary to receive this seal.

#### **National Girls Collaborative Project News**

The National Girls Collaborative Project held its first [regional kickoff conference in North Carolina](#) on September 18. All AAUW members are invited to attend the upcoming kickoff conferences in [Berkeley, California](#), on October 10 and [Tampa, Florida](#), on November 9.

#### **National Women's History Museum Coalition Meets at AAUW**

The [NWHM National Coalition](#) met at the AAUW national office on September 28 to discuss the new NWHM [online exhibit on women publishers and journalists](#), as well as ongoing efforts to secure a home for the museum. [Ask your senators to cosponsor and support the National Women's History Museum Act \(S.1841\)](#).

### LAF Celebrates Anniversary of Title IX at VA Tech

On September 26, 2007, LAF Director Lauren Kamnik and LAF Program Manager Sarah Warbelow participated in a panel presentation at Virginia Tech on [Title IX](#). LAF is proud to help celebrate the 35th anniversary of this important law.

**Archive & Comments:** An archive with PDF and Word versions of each *EdEqChange* is on the [AAUW website](#). Have comments on *EdEqChange*? Please send to [monroes@aauw.org](mailto:monroes@aauw.org).



## UPCOMING AAUW/CT CONFERENCES

*Carol Virostek*

As part of our efforts to increase attendance and participation at our quarterly state meetings, the executive committee made several important decisions this year. First was to place the emphasis on mission-based programming rather than on governance, programming that would be interesting and relevant not only to members but also to other like-minded individuals and groups. Although each event would include a state board business meeting, each would also have a featured speaker, program, or panel, such as our fall conference on Pay Equity and the Gender Wage Gap.

Another key decision was to locate our events in various parts of the state and to involve representatives of the host branches in the planning and logistics, as we have always done for our State Convention. Thanks to Julia Horne and Anne Hill of the Danbury Branch, as well as Sudha Sankar of Ridgefield, for their assistance with the Winter Conference, and to Cathy Branch-Stebbins and Barbara Arafeh from Greater Middletown for 2008 State Convention arrangements. An overview of each follows.

### Winter Conference

The Winter Conference will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2008, at Warner Hall at Western Connecticut State University. In addition to the business meeting, we will have a special program to which students and their teachers and/or group leaders from the Danbury area will also be invited. It is a program that we have sponsored from the outset.

AAUW/CT delegates at the AAUW Convention in Phoenix were incredibly proud of the workshop presented by Ridgefield High students Allison Dzuba and Amrita Sankar entitled *From Apathy to Activism: Engaging the Younger Generation in the Equity Mission*. [Special Presentation](#). Although state members had seen a much earlier version of this program, all agreed it was time to bring these student leaders back and to see them conduct the women's history program with their peers.

Following lunch the members will receive an important update on the restructuring of our national organization by Association Executive Vice President Gail Nordmoe. We will use this report to ensure that our state programming is consistent with the strategic direction and action goals that were set

at the Phoenix Convention in June. Branch members, as well as state and branch officers, are invited and encouraged to attend.

### **2008 State Convention and Annual Business Meeting**

The 2008 Convention will be held at the beautiful new Usdan Student Center at Wesleyan University in Middletown on Saturday, April 26. Arrangements have been made for overnight accommodations at the conference rate of \$129 at the lovely Inn at Middletown. <http://www.innatmiddletown.com/>. Greater Middletown Branch Co-President Barbara Arafeh has graciously offered to host the Friendship Gathering at her home on the evening of Friday, April 25. In recognition of historical connection between Wesleyan University and AAUW, Michael Roth, the new president of Wesleyan will be invited to attend

In keeping with our focus this year on pay equity and women's economic security, the program will focus on the various projects and activities of the CT WAGE Hub, which was launched at the Fall Conference at the YWCA New Britain. We are honored to have as our keynote speaker Dr. **Teresa Younger**, Executive Director of the CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. We will also invite all the attendees from the September 29 Pay Equity and Gender Wage Gap conference to return and share the activities they engaged in during the year. Nikita Mason

[masonn@stu.easternct.edu](mailto:masonn@stu.easternct.edu).

## **AAUW/CT Winter Conference**

**January 12, 2008**

**Warner Hall, Western Connecticut State University  
Danbury CT**

### AGENDA

#### AAUW/CT Members

8:30 - 9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast  
9:00 - 9:45 Business Meeting - Part 1

#### CONFERENCE PROGRAM: Members and Guests

10:00 - 12:00

[Special Presentation](#) "From Apathy to Activism: Engaging the Younger Generation in the Equity Mission"

#### AAUW/CT Members

12:30 Lunch  
1:15 - 3:30 Business Meeting - Part 2  
Update on Association Restructuring - Gail Nordmoe, AAUW VP  
AAUW/CT Strategic Planning

Register with Carol Blauvelt [CABLAUVELT@aol.com](mailto:CABLAUVELT@aol.com) or 203-966-7059 by **January 4**.  
Registration Fee: **\$15**. Payment at the door by cash or by check made out to AAUW/CT.

**AAUW/CT 2008 State Convention**  
**Wesleyan University – Usdan Center**  
**April 25 - 26, 2008**  
**Host Branch: Greater Middletown**

**Friendship Gathering**

Friday Evening, April 25, 2008.  
 Hosted by Branch Co-President Barbara Arafah at her home.

**Annual Convention/Business Meeting**

Saturday, April 26, 2008 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.  
 Morning Program: Connecticut WAGE Hub Project Presentations  
 AAUW/CT Members and WAGE Hub Partners  
 Keynote Speaker –  
 Teresa Younger, Ph.D., Executive Director,  
 Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

Afternoon Program: Annual Business Meeting/Election of Officers

**Accommodations:** The Inn at Middletown Reservation Deadline: April 4, 2008  
 Special Conference Rate: \$129



## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

**New London** - *Nancy Levine*

*[Levine\\_n@mitchell.edu](mailto:Levine_n@mitchell.edu)*



The New London Branch of AAUW has recently created an Equity Interest Group to develop an action-focused, mission-based, public face supporting equity issues in our community. This group will be deciding how to get the message out there in both large-scale and small-scale ways. We view this as an approach that will be more active than presenting monthly speakers and will reach more people. It may involve advocacy or educational programs in the sense that we will be doing the mission, not just talking about it. We believe these activities and events will encourage more people to join our branch as well.

Our January meeting will present an international theme in this increasingly global world as we focus on "A Perspective on Life in China." Diversity will be the theme of the February branch meeting held at Connecticut College. The Dean of Multicultural Affairs, Elizabeth Garcia, will heighten our awareness of the need for equity and unity both on campuses and in our communities. We will encourage college students, staff, and faculty to attend this program in order to promote the AAUW equity mission in this venue.

## **Storrs Willimantic - Lesley Kirschenbaum**

### ***"Running in High Heels"***

Kathy Labadorf, a branch member member and UCONN Librarian, made us aware of the movie "Running in High Heels" owned by the UCONN library. Kathy encouraged is to show the movie. We were able to enlist the support of the League of Women Voters and the Mansfield Library in sponsoring the movie with us. After the movie, a lively discussion ensued. The movie is a documentary, which follows a young woman in her bid to be senator in the New York State Senate. We had many questions about what obstacles cause women to be able to claim only a small percentage of seats in government. Is it more difficult for women in this country than in other countries around the world? Our members provided delicious refreshments. We collected donations, which were sent to the Yale Campaign School, which holds workshops for women interested in running for office.

### ***CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OWN JEAN DeSMET!!***

#### ***WINDHAM'S NEW FIRST SELECTWOMEN***



Jean, a

Green Party member, ran on the Bottom Line ticket. The Bottom Line ticket was comprised of former Democrats and Republicans as well as Jean of the Green Party. Jean won over the incumbent Mike Paulhaus for the top seat in Windham.

Jean has been active in the town for many years and is the organizer of the now famous 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Street festival, held in Willimantic May through October.





### Presidential Primaries and Caucuses Are Coming

Election Day 2008 is less than one year away. And this cycle, the primary elections and caucuses start in January, so you'll need to start preparing now to ensure women's voices and issues are heard on Election Day, Nov. 4, 2008.

### [Encourage Other Women to Vote](#)

Forward this e-card to other women and encourage them to [register to vote](#) and get involved. Read AAUW's [Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout: A Manual for Community-Based Campaigns to Mobilize Women to Vote](#) for tips on how you and your branch can help more women get to the polls.

### **Be Sure That You Are Registered to Vote**

Make sure your voter information is current: If you have moved since the last election, then you will need to [re-register](#) as many as 30 days before the election.

### **Get Informed**

Read AAUW's [Congressional Voting Record for the 109th Congress](#) to find out how your elected officials voted on issues important to women and girls.

## **A Message from State Communications Director**

**Polly Silva**

While the holidays are on our minds, ***the Presidential Primaries are just around the corner!*** Our informed participation in these primaries provide us a chance to give to our communities and to our nation. It's a chance for us to make a difference!

AAUW has provided some tools ([see the blue print above](#)) to help you get the word out -- and to help educate your branch members, friends, and families. I have added some key dates in the Connecticut Primaries.

**Here are some key dates for Connecticut voters:**

**Presidential Primary -- Tuesday, February 5, 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

**Tuesday, January 15** -- Absentee Ballots become available

**Thursday, January 31** -- Deadline for new unaffiliated voters to *enroll in a party* for voting in its primary.

- *NEW* voters, mail-in applications must be *postmarked*, or received by Registrar of Voters or voter registration agency, by this date.
- *UNAFFILIATED* voters, the mail-in application must be received (not merely postmarked) by the Registrar of Voters by this deadline.

**Monday, February 4, 12 noon** -- *In-person* enrollment deadline, for new voters and unaffiliated voters enrolling in a party, must register *in person at Town Hall*, for voting in primary.

**For more information, go to:**

**AAUW -- [http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue\\_advocacy/voter\\_ed/](http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/voter_ed/)**

**Connecticut Secretary of State --**

**<http://www.sots.ct.gov/ElectionsServices/Calendars/2008Election/CALINFO2007a.pdf>**

**or contact me: Polly Silva, [silvapm@comcast.net](mailto:silvapm@comcast.net), 860-647-9275**

***Have a safe and peaceful holiday season!***



**Mark Your 2008 Calendars**  
for  
**The 20th Annual Conference on Women and  
Gender at UCONN**

**Transnational Feminism, Community Activism,  
*and the Politics of Empowerment***

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Women and Gender  
at the University of Connecticut  
Friday and Saturday, February 29 and March 1, 2008

Presented by the University of Connecticut Women's Studies Program

***Keynote Address by***

***CECILIA FIRE THUNDER***

First tribally elected female President of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation; one of the original founders of the *National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome* and of *Cangleska*, which provides comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy and related services to citizens of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Ms. Fire Thunder, who has worked with indigenous women throughout the Americas, has also been active in the recovery of the Lakota language and in local education and youth employment.

and

***DR. VALENTINE MOGHADAM***

Dr. Valentine Moghadam has served as Chief of Gender Equality Development at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is currently the Director of the Women's Studies Program at Purdue University. Her current areas of research include globalization, transnational feminist networks, and civil society and citizenship in the Middle East. She is the author of *Women, Work and Economic Reform in the Middle East and North Africa* (1998); *Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East* (2003); and *Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks* (2005).

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## **Dates to Remember:**

**January 12, 2008 - AAUW/CT Winter Conference - 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
**Warner Hall, Western Connecticut State University**

**February 21, 2008 - "Making Women Visible Day"** - Legislative Office Building, Hartford  
Sponsored by CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and  
Coalition Partners

**February 29 & March 1, 2008 - 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Women and Gender**

**April 22, 2008 - "Equal Pay Day"** - Sponsored by CT Permanent Commission on the Status of  
Women and CT WAGE Hub Partners - Events TBA

**April 25 -26, 2008 - AAUW/CT Convention, hosted by Greater Middletown**  
**Usdan Center, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT**  
**Friendship Gathering** - Friday Evening, April 25, 2008 -hosted by Branch  
Co-President Barbara Arafeh at her home.  
**Annual Convention/Business Meeting, Saturday, April 26, 2008,**



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