

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

President: Sheila Doherty (781) 848-8122
Membership VPs: Patricia McKay (781) 337-3375 and Patricia Laidler (781) 878-6242
Program VPs: Diane Morash (781) 749-749-8756 and Jane Moore (781) 659-9443

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 September 2008

CALENDAR

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 26, Tuesday | Hingham Area Branch Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Home of Pat Bologna , 8 Patriot's Way, Hingham, 781-749-1726,
PatriciaBolognaAAUW-MA@comcast.net
Let Sheila know if you plan to attend, greenharbor11@verizon.net
781-267-1098 |
| August 28, Thursday | Adventures in Dining, 6:30 PM
Mill Wharf, Scituate |
| September 9, Tuesday | Pot Luck Dinner & Pound Auction, 6:30 PM
The Club House, Donovan Farm, Norwell |
| September 11, Thursday | Girls Game Night, 7 PM
Home of Sandy Carle |
| September 18, Thursday | Declutter Bugs, 4:30 PM
Panera Bread, Derby Street Shops, Hingham |
| September 25, Thursday | Writers Group, 7:30 PM
Brewed Awakenings, Hingham |
| October 14, Tuesday | Branch Meeting, 7:00 PM
Hingham Library |
| October 21, Tuesday | Girls Game Night, 7 PM
Home of Chrisanne Gregoire |
| October 25, Saturday | AAUW-Massachusetts South Sectional Meeting |
| October 26, Sunday | Orientation Tea, 2:00 PM
Home of Cathy Barnes |
| October 28, Tuesday | Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Home of Kathy Gabriel |

SEPTEMBER POTLUCK DINNER

We will start the year with the Annual Potluck Dinner. This year it will be held on **Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 p.m. at The Clubhouse at 17 Donovan Farm Way in Norwell.**

The parking is limited so it would be helpful if people could carpool. If the clubhouse parking lot is filled you must park on the right-hand side of the street, taking care not to block access to walkways and driveways, and please refrain from parking on the grass strips on the edge of the road to protect the sprinkler heads.

As usual, we ask you to bring your own place setting (plates and flatware) and a main dish, a salad, or a dessert. After dinner we will have a Pound Auction Fundraiser for the AAUW Educational Foundation.

Please let us know by **Sunday, September 7th** if you are coming and what dish you'll be bringing. In addition, we will need a few volunteers to help us set up and a few to help us clean up. Reservations should be made by calling or emailing Lynn at 781-812-1169 lynnphoward82@comcast.net. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sandy Carle and Lynn Howard, Social Committee Co-Chairs

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back. I hope you all had a nice few months. We had a very busy summer. Our program committee headed by Jane Moore has done a great job putting together programs that are mission based. Our interest groups have flourished during the summer months. Our public policy chair, Catherine Schindewolf has even been sending out public policy notices throughout the summer. I don't remember a more active AAUW summer.

We did have one sadness: Pat Granahan's son Leon passed away. We hope that Pat will find strength in her family and her AAUW friends.

Please remember to save Tuesday, September 9th for our Pot Luck Dinner being held at the Club House, Donovan Farm Way, Norwell. This is a new venue, since we have outgrown Allerton House for this meeting. Ginny Giordano has a beautiful home there and through her we are able to use this facility. Also at this meeting we will be having a Pound Auction in lieu of participating in the Macy's/Hanover Mall Charity Night. Proceeds will be sent to the Educational Foundation. This is the perfect opportunity to bring along a friend to introduce to AAUW. Please remember to RSVP to Sandy or Lynn.

See you all at Pot Luck, Sheila

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Bring your imaginative, whimsical, or practical side with you in a wrapped item for the auction at our Potluck Dinner. Your donation should be the weight or equivalent of a one pound offering and should have a short verse attached to help the auctioneer entice bidders.

Proceeds from this activity will be used toward our Educational Foundation program. EF funds are used to give fellowships and grants to women. More than 8000 women from 120 nations have benefited from this program. EF provides funds to advance education, research, and self development. Thank you in advance for your continued support. Please call me if you have any questions or would like to assist with this fundraiser.

Ruthanne Kennedy, 781-330-1645

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Welcome back to another exciting AAUW year! It hardly seems possible that summer has come and gone! As our September meeting is just around the corner, this seems like a good time to remind everyone that, in addition to being a great way to reconnect with old friends, the Potluck Supper is also a wonderful opportunity to introduce new members to AAUW. Please consider bringing a friend, a neighbor or a colleague with you to Potluck to give

them a chance to learn about our organization. This program is a great way for prospective members to see why you are passionate about AAUW's important mission and why you are a member.

As an extra incentive, keep in mind that when a prospective member joins at an AAUW sponsored event, she is eligible for **Shape the Future** which offers a 50% discount off Association dues. And she gets a delicious, free dinner as well.

If our organization is to remain vital, it needs new members who are committed to our shared vision of equity for women and we all need to support this membership initiative with action. If you can, bring a prospective member along to Potluck. If this is not possible, and you know someone who you think would benefit from membership, have them contact Patricia McKay or Pat Laidler or send their contact information to Patricia or Pat who will be glad to follow up and provide membership information. Another way to introduce a prospective member is to direct them to the state website (<http://www.aauw-ma.org/>) where they can link to the branch webpage.

(<http://www.aauw-ma.org/Hingham%202005/index.htm>) Thanks for your support in this important effort for our branch.

Patricia McKay and Pat Laidler, Membership Co-Chairs

WRITER'S GROUP

The Writer's Group is proud to announce that Susan Mahan's poem Winter Tulips has been accepted by *The Auroream*, a poetry journal published in Farmington, Maine. Our other writers, Kay Campbell and Beatrice Kelly have made progress on their novels. Gwen Sayian has volunteered to continue as correspondent of the AAUW-Hingham Branch. Her work can be found in the AAUW monthly column in the Hingham Journal, September through May.

The Writer's Group will meet next on September 25 at Brewed Awakening in Hingham, 7:30 PM. Any interested member is welcome to join us. For more information contact Patricia McKay (781-337-3375)

BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Book Group will be on October 7, 2008 at 7 PM at the home of Carol Sullivan-Hanley. The group will be discussing *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See.

Selections for the rest of the year include:

November – *Dead Man Walking* by Sister Helen Prejean

February - *Saving Fish from Drowning* by Amy Tan

March – *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks

April – *American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work* by Susan Cheever*

For this month's discussion, we're hoping to organize a Saturday trip to Concord to visit the Concord Museum and have lunch at the Colonial Inn to discuss the book.

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Since 1981 the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) has been working to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace by supporting cases of discrimination that disadvantage women and through community and campus outreach programs, a resource library and online advocacy tools, and various research reports. LAF is also transitioning toward supporting landmark sex discrimination cases that have the potential to make a difference for all women.

I had the opportunity to hear LAF plaintiff Graciela Chichilnisky speak. It is with pleasure I announce the settlement of her case through the following press release:

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Plaintiff Settles Suit with Columbia

WASHINGTON – An AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund–supported plaintiff has settled her lawsuit against Columbia University for an undisclosed sum.

In *Chichilnisky v. Columbia University*, Graciela Chichilnisky, one of Columbia’s most distinguished international economists and mathematicians, sued the university for pay discrimination under the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Columbia did not admit to any wrongdoing.

“I was awarded a substantive monetary settlement,” Chichilnisky said. “I am pleased and ready to move forward.”

Chichilnisky has been a tenured, full professor at Columbia since 1979. She studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at the University of California, Berkeley and has two doctoral degrees, one in mathematics and one in economics.

“Despite being internationally recognized for her research and publications, Professor Chichilnisky was still confronted by pay discrimination,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. “Her case illustrates the inequities women continue to face. AAUW is committed to breaking through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.”

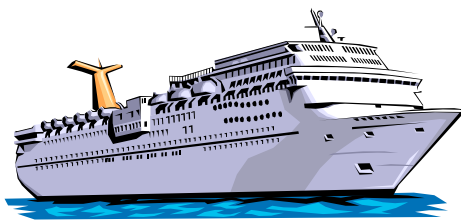
AAUW contributed significant funds to offset Chichilnisky’s latest round of legal expenses. Members of New York City area AAUW branches attended her recent trial to show their support.

The case is Chichilnisky’s second suit against the university for pay discrimination. In 1991, she alleged that the university had violated the Equal Pay Act and Title VII, after she found out that her salary was roughly 30 percent lower than the median salary of her male colleagues in her department. She won a \$500,000 settlement in 1995.

In 2000, Chichilnisky went back to court, contending that the university retaliated against her and reneged on the settlement terms. She also claimed that her pay once again lagged dramatically behind that of her male counterparts. Columbia later filed counterclaims against Chichilnisky, charging that she had violated the university’s rules by not reporting that she had a second job and that she had breached settlement terms.

Hollie Bagley, LAF Liaison

JOIN US FOR A BERMUDA CRUISE



AAUW-MA is trying a unique way to raise funds for the **Legal Advocacy Fund** by sponsoring a 7 day cruise to Bermuda departing from Boston on July 17, 2009 on the Norwegian Cruise Line’s *Norwegian Spirit*.

Here’s how it works. For a certain number of cabins booked, we get group rates and a complimentary cabin. Instead of taking advantage of the “free” cabin, the group leader pays for her cabin like the rest of the

group and donates the money she would have saved to the **Legal Advocacy Fund**.

However, we must meet the cabin quota. If you have ever dreamed of a Bermuda cruise, now is the time to do it. Our group is not limited to AAUW members, so invite your usual travel companions, bring along your family, tell your friends and neighbors—help us to meet the cabin quota. It may be possible to arrange for roommates. To find out more about the cruise visit the NCL website at www.ncl.com. Contact Hollie (Hollie@gallivan.org or 781 749-6274) for price list for specific cabin classes and down payment details. To express an interest in the trip, call Sharon Lemoff (781-749-3734) or email her at slemoff@msn.com.

AAUW-MA FALL ROAD SHOW—SAVE THE DATE

In an effort to reach more members the state Program Committee has decided to hold two member forums, one in the south and one in the north, rather than the traditional Fall Conference. As we keep hearing, there are big changes in store for AAUW. Most of these changes will be implemented with the adoption of new by-laws at the national convention in St. Louis in June 2009. The proposed changes are sweeping and the AAUW-MA delegation needs to know the wishes of its members.

Come, spend the morning of **October 25th** at a location south of Boston or, if the north of Boston area suits you, attend on **November 15th**. Locations will be announced soon. The forum will be offered twice for your convenience. You will hear the proposed changes and the rationale behind them. You will have the opportunity to make your voice heard. The discussion will be lively as the changes effect the future of AAUW.

You will be learning more about the changes in the *BayStater* and *Outlook*, but you can also sign into the Member Center on the national website and read the proposed Bylaws draft. It is not the dull reading we have come to associate with bylaws. You are in for some interesting reading! You will want to express your opinion. So plan to attend the forum on October 25th or November 15th because the future of AAUW is up to you

PUBLIC POLICY

Social Security Turns 73

Anniversary of the 73rd anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act by President Franklin Roosevelt. One of our country's most successful anti-poverty programs, Social Security greatly benefits America's women. In fact, more than half of older women in the United States would fall into poverty without Social Security benefits.

AAUW is firmly against privatizing all or part of the current Social Security program, since that would eliminate many of the guaranteed benefits women need and jeopardize important benefits to children, especially women and children of color. Social Security's long-term solvency needs to be strengthened, not weakened through privatization. For more information, read AAUW's position papers on women and Social Security and Social Security privatization.

Women Candidates in 2008

While Senator Hillary Clinton's campaign ended without a woman candidate for president, women are still running for high offices throughout the nation. According to the Center for American Women in Politics at Rutgers University, 149 women are candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, and 8 women are candidates for Senate seats. Five states will also see women running for governor. For more information on women candidates and women voters this election cycle, including information on women in state legislatures, see the CAWP website.

Programs Help Women Return to Labor Market

Women's eNews reported on a booming industry of niche consultants and classes that aim to prepare women to return to the workplace. According to a 2005 *Harvard Business Review* report, "Off-Ramps and On-Ramps: Keeping Talented Women on the Road to Success," 37 percent of highly-qualified women, and 43 percent of highly qualified mothers, take time out of the paid workforce at some point in their lives. The report also found that while 93 percent of such women want to return to their careers, only 74 percent manage to do so. Flexible staffing firms like Mom Corps and 10 til 2 have recently sprung up to match companies that offer flexible schedules and family-friendly workplace benefits with women ready to re-enter the workforce. Several colleges and large employers have also begun to offer programs to prepare professional women to rejoin the workforce.

Presidential Poll Focuses on Women's Issues and Preferences

This week, Lifetime Networks announced the results of a national poll of likely women voters that sheds light on women's impressions of Senators McCain and Obama. The poll also identifies economic worries as the dominant

issue driving women to the polls, and indicates whom Senator Clinton's primary voters now support, as well as how they believe her candidacy will affect future presidential races. The poll was conducted by Republican pollster Kellyanne Conway of the polling company TM, inc./WomanTrend and Democratic pollster Celinda Lake of Lake Research Partners.

Neither McCain nor Obama has secured a clear majority of women voters; McCain has 38 percent to Obama's 49 percent, and six percent of these women said they were only leaning toward a candidate. Ten percent of the women polled remain firmly undecided, leaving the race for the women's vote very tight. The majority of women polled say that putting a woman on the ticket would not sway their vote either way, and while 47 percent of Hillary Clinton's primary voters said they'd be more likely to vote for Obama if he chose a woman running mate, 59 percent would be unmoved by a woman on McCain's ticket. More women attribute Hillary's loss not to sexism in the presidential campaign, but because of the way she ran her campaign (34% vs. 21%). Jobs and the economy remain the most important issue to women this election (41 percent), and when asked which issues women want to hear the candidates talk more about, those polled again chose jobs/the economy by 47 percent.

Keys to Hiring Women in STEM Discussed

Sociologists Dr. Christy M. Glass of Utah State University and Dr. Krista Lynn Minnotte of the University of North Dakota presented data at the American Sociological Association Conference in Boston that looked at the hiring of women for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) positions. According to InsideHigherEd, the study examined 3,245 applicants for 63 positions, and found that women were clearly sought after—5.6 percent of women were being offered positions, versus 2.9 percent of men. The troubling piece of the data was the lack of female applicants, as men represented 84.8 percent of job applicants. The authors found that this result can partially be attributed to men having an “information advantage” at finding out about positions. Another factor mentioned by the authors was the power of having women on the search committee. They noted that although this did not increase the applicant pool, it gave women a better chance of making it to the final stages of the hiring process; a similar effect can be seen in university panels that prioritize diversity.

AAUW Executive Director Meets with Senator Obama

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) met with AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman and other leaders of the women's community, a group he referred to as the “Power Group.” Senator Obama specifically touched on issues involving pay equity, Supreme Court nominations, the effects of the economic downturn on women, and the women's vote in the upcoming elections. Other topics discussed during the meeting included reproductive rights, paid sick days, and Social Security.

Ms. Hallman emphasized to Senator Obama the importance of education and civil rights laws in helping women break through economic barriers. She expressed to Obama that these issues play a key role in the AAUW's voter education campaign. In her personal commentary, which she provides on AAUW's blog, she emphasizes how important it is for women to make their voices heard and to hold elected officials accountable by focusing on pertinent issues. You are invited to share your comments on what you would say to the presidential candidates at AAUW Dialog.

Women Politicians Return to Run Again

According to Women's eNews, 16 women who lost congressional races in the 2006 election cycle are running again in 2008. This marks a shift for women, who have traditionally not continued to pursue politics again after a defeat. Allison Stevens, Women's eNews Washington bureau chief, believes that this is a positive step forward for women as continued participation in congressional races provides candidates with an edge through name recognition and additional fundraising capabilities. In addition, Ms. Stevens points to a new political landscape that is characterized by women running for office independently instead of riding on the coattails of their husbands. The factors that give the advantage to those who persist will also be complimented by potential Democratic success in the national election, according to Ms. Stevens.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

AAUW Advocacy Pays Off: President Signs HEA Reauthorization

President Bush signed the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (H.R. 4137) into law. The legislation passed both the House (380-49) and the Senate (83-8) on July 31. The 1,150 page bill brought massive overhaul as the first reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in 10 years. The legislation extends additional aid benefits for students, forces greater accountability for colleges, and reduces the length of the Free Application For Student Aid Form (FAFSA) from 109 pages to 2 pages. Among the bill's provisions were a number of programs that AAUW had fought for, including making Pell grants available year-round, expanding the population of qualified individuals—particularly women and minorities—in STEM fields, establishing the Patsy Mink Graduate Fellowship Program, increasing funding for campus child care, and aligning the HEA hate crimes categories with the ones used by the FBI. AAUW led the effort to create the Mink Fellowships and align the hate crimes categories.

Congress Enjoys August Recess; Discusses Tentative Schedule upon Return

According to Roll Call, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) is planning a hectic session for his coworkers upon their return. While the Senate has set a target adjournment date of September 26, it is unknown if that will be enough time to tackle everything on their to-do list, which includes an energy bill, tax extenders, and a continuing resolution to keep the government funded and running until a new administration takes over in January. Leaving Washington, D.C. by the end of September will allow members of Congress to return home to campaign before the November 4 elections. Both Senator Reid and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) have said they want to avoid having to call members of Congress back to D.C. after the elections for a lame-duck session, but that option won't be ruled out.

AAUW Victory on the Paycheck Fairness Act

The House of Representatives passed (247-178) the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 1338). All Democrats voted for the bill, and 14 Republicans crossed the aisle to vote yes in favor of equal pay. AAUW members and supporters have worked tirelessly for more than a decade to help bring this bill to passage, and most recently many Action Network subscribers sent multiple messages to their representatives in favor of this legislation. AAUW's Capitol Hill Lobby Corps was also instrumental in this advocacy campaign, visiting many congressional offices to represent the support of AAUW members across the nation. In addition, AAUW coordinated a sign-on letter for 200 federal, state, and local coalition partners to show Congress the widespread support for the bill.

"AAUW has long supported a fair playing field and a fair paying field — the Paycheck Fairness Act represents both," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE, in a press release. "AAUW continues to be on the frontline of the pay equity fight. Our members have worked tirelessly to pass this bill."

Championed by longtime AAUW friend Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), the Paycheck Fairness Act would deter wage discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations and by prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages. Under the bill, employers would have to show that wage gaps truly are the result of factors other than sex discrimination. It would also require the U.S. Department of Labor to reinstate activities that promote equal pay, including collecting wage-related data. The bill had 231 co-sponsors when it passed. If signed into law, the measure would strengthen and update the Equal Pay Act — passed 45 years ago — and would provide critical tools in the fight to close the sizable wage gap between men and women.

Foreclosure Bill Signed into Law

President Bush signed into law the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 (H.R. 3221), according to The Washington Post. The bill brings about sweeping changes with the largest housing reform in decades. The new reforms create stronger oversight of FannieMae and FreddieMac which currently guarantee over half of American mortgages. In addition, the government-backed lenders will be granted unlimited credit by the

federal government and be able to write new loans for up to \$625,000. The legislation also seeks to help 400,000 American homeowners by allowing the Federal Housing Administration to assist borrowers who now owe more on their home than its value. As a part of the overhaul, FHA will insure new loans if lenders promise to forgive debts and write loans at no more than 90 percent of the homes lowest value.

House Passes Student Insurance Bill

According to the Boston Globe, the House passed (voice vote) Michelle's Law (H.R. 2851) to extend medical benefits for up to 12 months to part-time students who are affected by disease or injury. Under the current law, students over 18 years of age are only eligible for coverage if they are full-time students or if their parents are willing to pay higher rates. The bill now awaits action by the Senate. AAUW supports measures that assist students in continuing to pursue their higher education goals without barriers.

Update on Proposed Family Planning Regulations

Michael Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services, responded to the criticism of the draft HHS regulations proposal which would broadly extend the definition of reproductive health services and allow health care providers to refuse to provide certain family planning services, including some of the most common forms of birth control. According the National Partnership for Women and Families, Leavitt wrote in his professional blog that it was not his intent to deal with the subject of contraceptives, and that his only concern is to address the right of medical practitioners to practice according to their consciences. Further, he continued that the HHS is still unsure if they will release any regulations at all, and if they do, their focus will be in protecting the "practitioner's conscience." However, he did not make clear the extent to which this protection would allow health care workers to deny services. These regulations would affect more than 500,000 hospitals, clinics, and medical facilities that receive federal funding.

UNIQUELY AAUW

AAUW Educational Foundation Celebrates 50th Anniversary

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the AAUW Educational Foundation. AAUW Educational Foundation was founded in 1958 as part of AAUW's commitment to provide support to education and educators through fellowships and grants both nationally and globally. Since its inception, the AAUW Educational Foundation has distributed millions of dollars in support of women's scholarship, funding more than 8,000 fellowships, grants, and awards. The Foundation remains one of the world's largest funding sources for graduate women and has become the source of AAUW's landmark research reports. More recently, it has given rise to AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

RESOURCES FOR ADVOCATES

Gear Up for Election Day

AAUW encourages you to start preparing now to ensure women's voices and issues are heard on Election Day, November 4, 2008. Encourage other women to vote by forwarding AAUW's e-card to other women and encouraging 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 get more women to the polls. Also, be sure that you are registered to vote and that 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. Finally, get informed by reading more about AAUW's Voter Education Campaign, and read AAUW's Congressional Voting Record for the 110th Congress, First Session to find out how your elected officials voted on issues important to women and girls.

Save the Date for the AAUW 2009 Convention

The 2009 AAUW Convention in St. Louis is scheduled for June 26–28, 2009. Please remember to plan for convention in your 2009 budget, put it on your calendar, and join us in St. Louis! Check the convention webpage often for updates.