

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Maine Women's Publications - All

Publications

Fall 9-1-2009

Dawnbreaker Vol 57 No 1 (Fall 2009)

Dawnbreaker Staff

Maine Division - American Association of University Women

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all



Part of the [Education Commons](#), [History Commons](#), [Public Administration Commons](#), [Public Affairs Commons](#), and the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Staff, Dawnbreaker, "Dawnbreaker Vol 57 No 1 (Fall 2009)" (2009). *Maine Women's Publications - All*. 32. https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all/32

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Women's Publications - All by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.



DAWN BREAKER

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
AAUW MAINE
FALL 2009/10
VOLUME 57, NUMBER 1**



President's Message

by Charmen Goehring-Fox
charminme@yahoo.com

I am pleased to welcome you back to another exciting, event-filled year of AAUW in Maine! This summer may have been one of the rainiest and coldest ever, but it was "hot" with AAUW activity, starting with the national convention in St. Louis. Phyllis Borns, Janet Givens, and I were honored to represent Maine during the important votes for AAUW's new bylaws and leadership. While open membership was not passed, which we voted for at the Maine state convention, the issue is gaining momentum. The quality of the speakers and workshops was outstanding and shortening the event by one day didn't seem to affect the overall quality one bit. In fact, in spite of these tough economic times, a record number of members turned out to guide the new organization through its first decisions.



I was able to attend the convention banquet where I met a childhood hero of mine, Representative Jackie Speier from California. In 1978, Speier travelled with her boss Congressman Leo Ryan to Jonestown, Guyana to investigate claims of constituents being held against their will by Reverend Jim Jones. Speier and Ryan were ambushed by gunmen as they were leaving, the Congressman was killed, and Speier shot five times and left for dead. She has since dedicated her life to public service on behalf of the citizens of northern California. Meeting AAUW members from all over the country and discussing a wide variety of women's and AAUW issues was also an incredible experience.

In the end, the membership issue became the hottest topic, both at convention and since. If you would like to be on the email list about this issue, please let me know. Four years ago, Maine members, led by Cindy Hebert, dreamt of a day when sharing an interest in equity for women and girls would be the only requirement for

(Continued on page 2)

Maine Honored with an Award of a 2009 Public Policy Impact Grant

by Charmen Goehring-Fox

We learned at AAUW Convention in St. Louis that AAUW Maine was honored to be one of eight recipients of a 2009 Public Policy Impact Grant. The grant, "A Call to Collaboration," will facilitate a collaboration focused on AAUW Maine and the Maine Women's Lobby (MWL).

The grant will (1) engage AAUW and MWL members in advocating for state and national priorities; (2) maximize AAUW membership engagement through direct outreach events with MWL/Maine Women's Policy Center (MWPC), and (3) build our shared membership base through member-to-member outreach and coordinated cross-communication among members.

A big part of this effort will be AAUW's role as co-host of the MWPC Breakfast with Champions events in October. These events highlight success women, this year those in business and economics. We are delighted to welcome Public Policy Director Lisa Maatz from the national AAUW office. She will speak at the breakfasts. Several AAUW branch events will also be held in conjunction with Lisa's appearances so that our members can meet and interact with her. The Breakfasts are held in Presque Isle (Oct. 6), Bangor (Oct. 7) and Portland (Oct. 8). It is vital that AAUW members attend and be recognized. More information can be found on page 3.

Other actions that are planned for this collaboration include linking MWL members to AAUW's *Action Alerts*; MWL assistance in creating a greater web presence for AAUW Maine; a possible Lobby Day with the Business and Professional Women, AAUW and MWL; and coordinating media/legislative contacts on shared priority issues.

Information will be available throughout the year on how you and your branch can be a part of this exciting collaboration with the MWL. We expect that this collaboration will effectively impact state policy on women's issues.

President's Message (Continued from pg 1)

membership in AAUW. The path was cleared with the passage of the Associate's degree qualification and the movement has been collecting support around the country. Unfortunately, many members still see having a degree as defining who we are, rather than our important mission constituting that definition. Some of the comments I heard at convention have stuck with me and still disturb me. Comments such as "we lose our credibility if we dumb down the requirements," that conservatives will "buy up" memberships and destroy the organization (as if conservatives don't have degrees?), and that members desire a place where they can have intelligent conversation and friends. It shocked me to hear women voice these statements, especially after listening to Lilly Ledbetter's powerful speech. We gave her a roaring standing ovation, but we also deny her membership because she has no degree.

Fortunately, I am not alone in my desire for a more equitable organization! A small group of us are working on strategy for bringing this issue to a successful vote in the future. We have sent a letter to the new AAUW board, requesting a taskforce be formed to study both sides of the issue and its ramifications. The board received the letter too late to include the request on their August agenda, so have appointed a small subcommittee to study the request and report back at the October meeting.

For now, this small dedicated group of members from many states will work to build support for open membership. The group may evolve into a new "AAUW network" which would work within the system, within an AAUW-approved formal structure to help increase the possibility of affecting future AAUW policy and action. If you would be interested in learning more about and joining this group, please let me know. I am confident that one day soon, we will have the more inclusive, equitable organization that many of us desire!

I am very pleased to have AAUW Public Policy Director, Lisa Maatz, joining us for the Breakfast of Champions events, our fall board meeting, and an AAUW/MWL reception. Lisa is extremely dynamic and deeply dedicated to AAUW's mission. She looks forward to meeting Maine members, and I know we will benefit greatly by having her here! I hope each of you will make plans to either attend a Breakfast or the reception welcoming Lisa. Information regarding these events can be found elsewhere in this *Dawn Breaker*.

I am proud that AAUW is a respected force in our nation, a respect that begins at the grassroots/branch level. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of women and girls in your communities, in Maine and beyond.

Revising AAUW Branch Bylaws

by Betsy Eggleston, Bylaws Chair
etevolunteer@prexar.com

Recently, all Maine AAUW branches received an email with the memo from AAUW Bylaws committee, outlining the steps necessary to bring our state and branch bylaws into conformance with the newly revised AAUW bylaws following the national convention in June of 2009.

The memo stated that following an AAUW Convention, it is the responsibility of state and branch presidents to insure that any mandatory changes are made to state and branch bylaws.

The memo has three purposes:

1. Highlight what has **not** changed as a result of the action of delegates at the AAUW Convention in St. Louis June 26-28, 2009.
2. List the **mandatory** changes that must be made to your bylaws (no member vote needed).
3. List **optional** changes you might want to consider in the future (member vote required).

The full text of the 2009 AAUW Bylaws is posted on the AAUW website and will also be printed for distribution to state and branch presidents in early September. Model state and branch bylaws are also posted on the AAUW website.

Each branch has until October 31, 2009 to send one copy of their revised bylaws to Betsy Eggleston, Maine state bylaws chair. My address is PO Box 248, Ellsworth, ME 04605 or etevolunteer@prexar.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

"KEEP MAINE CONNECTED" CAMPAIGN TO BE CONTINUED IN 2009-2010 YEAR

Last year (2008-2009), AAUW Maine's Keep Maine Connected Campaign was successfully completed. Generous contributions from members resulted in reaching the goal of raising \$2,000, which made it possible for AAUW Maine to balance the budget for the year. The AAUW Maine state board voted to run this campaign again in 2009-2010 to help with decreases in income from fewer membership dues, this campaign has made possible continuation of services by AAUW Maine. Please mail donations to state treasurer Marilyn Leimbach (9 Wilson Park, Waterville, ME 04901).

Exciting Beginning to AAUW Maine's 2009-2010 Year

by Joan Sanzenbacher, Program Vice President,
jhsanzen@colby.edu

As your new program vice-president, I am pleased that the public policy grant awarded to AAUW Maine will allow us to work more closely with the Maine Women's Lobby (MWL) than we have these past years. Although we are members of the MWL and Bets Brown has ably represented us at the Women's Leadership Action Coalition (WLAC) meetings, we now have more incentives to share resources as we work for equity for women.

Our first step will be to co-host the **Breakfast of Champions** events in October. Our Aroostook County branches have participated in the Breakfast of Champions for a number of years and contributed to the success of the Presque Isle event. A goal for this year is to have more AAUW members attend these events throughout the state as well as in the County. As noted by President Goehring-Fox in her messages on page 1, one benefit of the grant is that Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, will be a guest speaker at this year's breakfasts.

Breakfast of Champions Schedule:

Tuesday, October 6, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Northern Maine
Community College, Presque Isle
Wednesday, October 7, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Spectacular Event
Center, Bangor
Thursday, October 8, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Holiday Inn By the Bay,
Portland

As AAUW's top policy adviser, Lisa Maatz works to advance AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, through the executive branch, and in coalition with other organizations. An energizing speaker, Maatz has done similar work for the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Older Women's League and was a legislative aide to U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Her grassroots advocacy career began when she was the Executive Director of Turning Point, a battered women's program recognized for excellence by the Ohio Supreme Court. Maatz's areas of expertise include gender equity in education, Title IX, retirement security, pay equity, and other civil rights issues related to women and girls.

Maatz is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Ohio University, has two Master's degrees from Ohio State, and holds an adjunct appointment with the Women and Politics Institute at American University.

Our fall board meeting will be held at my home in Waterville on Sunday afternoon, October 4. All who are interested are welcome to attend the meeting from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. A reception for Lisa will follow immediately after the board

meeting. I hope as many of our area AAUW and MWL members as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to meet Lisa. It will also be an opportunity for our groups to network.

I live at 12 Brooklyn Avenue in Waterville, which is directly across from Waterville Senior High School. The easiest way to find my home is to take Interstate 95 to Exit 127. Coming from the south, turn right of the exit ramp onto Kennedy Memorial Drive (KMD); coming from the north, turn left off the exit ramp onto. Travel down KMD for about 4/5 of a mile to the First Rangeway. Inland Hospital will be on your right. Turn left and travel until you reach a blinking yellow light. At the blinking light, turn right onto Western Avenue and travel past five streets on your left, turning left at the sixth street, which is Messalonskee Avenue. Go one block and turn left onto Brooklyn Avenue. My home is on the next corner, white with black shutters. Please call if you have any questions (872-2697).



Record Number of Members "Break Through Barriers" in St. Louis

by Charmen Goehring-Fox

The Maine delegation, consisting of Charmen Goehring-Fox, Janet Givens, and Phyllis Borns, joined 970 people in St. Louis for the June 2009 AAUW "Breaking Through Barriers" convention. The convention opened on a high note with a video welcome message from White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, who extended greetings from the First Couple and applauded AAUW's commitment to gender equity, work-life balance and education. St. Louis Comptroller Darlene Green, AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman and AAUW President Ruth Sweetser warmly welcomed the audience before AAUW Public Policy Director Lisa Maatz introduced Lilly Ledbetter, who took the stage to a standing ovation.

Ledbetter spoke about growing up in Alabama, working hard, raising a family, and playing by the rules. After 19 years at Goodyear, she found out that she had been underpaid for virtually her entire career. She filed suit with the EEOC, and her case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In January 2009, Ledbetter was vindicated when she stood by President Obama as he signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law. Ledbetter continues to travel around the country, sharing her story and urging the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which has already passed in the House. The opening session ended with a call to action from Lisa Maatz, who urged all members to engage in an act of "polite civil disobedience"

(continued on Page 4)

Record Number of Members "Break Through Barriers" in St. Louis (continued from page 3)

Convention delegates later heard from Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) who lauded AAUW members for their tireless advocacy in building support in Congress for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, but declared that we must continue to urge the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. She also spoke about the power of constituent advocacy, noting that members of Congress think about their chances for reelection whenever they hear from their constituents. She ended her speech with a quote from her mother: "Come on girls; let's make ourselves heard!"

In other convention news, President Ruth Sweetser reported that AAUW awarded \$4.4 million in fellowships and grants in FY 09. The Major Gifts campaign committee has already raised more than \$450,000 and hopes to raise \$1 million by the end of 2010. The following were elected to office: AAUW President- Carolyn Garfein (GA), AAUW Vice President- Gail Nordmoe (CT), AAUW Directors-at-Large- Kathleen Cha, Alicia Hetman, Connie Hildebrand, Patricia Ho, Jackie Littleton, Betsy McDowell and Linda Tozier. The newly elected board then met and appointed Krys Wulff, Kathy Anthon, David Kirkwood, Millie Hoffler-Foushee, and Marcia Capriotti as Appointed Directors.

One of the most interesting and spirited sessions at the convention was a three-hour business meeting to approve the AAUW bylaws, where most of the discussion centered on membership requirements. With more than 1400 ballots cast in a multiple-card vote, the delegates struck a proposal that would have opened membership to all who support AAUW's mission and voted to insert passages from the 2007 Association Bylaws that extend membership to individuals based on their educational degrees. Delegates also passed motions to increase the number of directors-at-large from seven to ten, while the number of appointed officers and directors will drop from six to three in the new bylaws, which will go into effect on July 1, 2009. The amended board composition will go into effect for the 2011-2013 biennium. The delegates also passed the "one member, one vote" proposal, which provides every member the right and opportunity to have a personal voice in directing the future of AAUW and our important work to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. The rest of the the proposed bylaws passed as presented.

Save the date for the 2011 AAUW National Convention which returns to Washington, D.C. and will be held at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. on June 16-19, 2011. It will feature activities unique to the D.C. experience, including an AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Day.

AAUW Maine Officers and Committee Chairs

- President - Charmen Goehring-Fox
- President - elect - no candidate - please volunteer
- Program VP - Joan Sanzenbacher
- Member VP 1 year - no candidate - please volunteer
- Corresponding Secretary - Lynda DeHaan
- Recording Secretary - Mary Ireland
- Treasurer - Marilyn Leimbach
- Nominating Committee - Betsy Eggleston, Pat Rathbun
- Educational Foundation - Sue Landry
- Public Policy - Bets Brown
- Historian - Mary Ireland
- College/University Relations - Betty-Jane Meader
- Webmaster - Marilyn Leimbach



Summer Board Meeting Update

by Charmen Goehring-Fox

Members of the AAUW Maine board of directors met this summer in Orono at the University of Maine. We heard updates regarding branch plans for the upcoming year as well as news from the AAUW convention from Charmen Goehring-Fox and Phyllis Borns.

Bets Brown discussed her work on the Women Leadership Action Council, after which the group discussed plans for Lisa Maatz's visit to Maine for the Breakfast of Champions and way to maximize her time here with our members. We discussed the new AAUW bylaws and how they will affect our state and branches.

We discussed streamlining our own organization. As a result, we voted to combine Membership VP with Diversity Chair; eliminated positions of Parliamentarian, Communications Chair, and International Relations Chair; and have Communications Chair picked up by both Secretaries and the Webmaster. Having fewer positions allows us to focus on filling the most pertinent jobs during a time when volunteers are difficult to find.

During the meeting, we also discussed our 2010 state convention, which will be hosted by the Penobscot Valley branch, and set the dates for our remaining meetings this year. The fall 2009 board meeting, to be held in Waterville at the home of Joan Sanzenbacher, will be combined with a social event welcoming Lisa Maatz on Sunday, October 4 (see page 3). The spring board meeting will be March 6 at Bets Brown's home in South China. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

AAUW American Fellowship Recipient: 2009-2010

Cheryl Saliwanchik-Brown of the University of Maine has received an American Fellowship publication grant in education from AAUW for the 2009-2010. Her grant will focus on her research, “The Racial/Ethnic Group Disadvantage Scale.”



Saliwanchik-Brown has taught and worked with at-risk teens as a high school teacher, mentor, volunteer, and researcher. She currently is an evaluator for the Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Project, teaches courses in at-risk education, and is a part-time researcher. Her doctorate focused on bringing the stories of marginalized public school youth to the forefront to inform educational programming, especially in dropout prevention.



ACHIEVEMENT CITATION AWARD

by Kristin Sweeney, kgsweeney@gwi.net

We had several nominees for the Achievement Citation Award last year and it would be stupendous to continue the momentum in 2009. Go ahead. Just do it. Nominate your candidate for the 2010 Achievement Citation Award. The deadline is January 31, 2010. Nomination forms and instructions will be sent to the Branches in October 2009.

The basic requirements include:

- The nominee should be a woman in Maine who has made a distinctive contribution in some AAUW field of interest or study (for example, service to state, to education, to arts, or to humanity).
- The nominee should have a valid connection with the state.
- The nominee should exhibit achievement over and above job-related activities.
- The nominee should be a “pioneer” in her area.

Additional considerations include:

- The nominee does **not** have to be a member of AAUW and does **not** have to be an “unsung” heroine.
- The achievement does **not** have to be employment related.
- Other qualifications may be non-traditional fields and significant contribution to women’s issues, community/region/state, or a particular field.



AAUW-MAINE EF/LAF REPORT

by Susan Nolan Landry, EF/LAF Liaison,
Susan_Landry@umit.maine.edu

A huge THANK YOU goes to all Maine members who contributed to the Educational Foundation/Legal Advocacy Fund raffle at convention this past spring— including not just those who purchased and/or sold tickets, but also those who contributed so generously to the fantastic baskets. We raised \$634 to be split evenly between the two funds.

Remember, despite changes within AAUW, you can still direct your contributions to specific areas you wish to support. A donation form can be found on the website (www.aauw.org) with information about supporting AAUW programs. A page of fund numbers and names by program area exists for branches submitting contribution report forms. Anyone wishing to make a donation but unsure how to proceed should not hesitate to contact AAUW, your branch liaison, or me.

As of August 15, no EF/LAF mailings have been received for the new fiscal/program year, but lots of information is available on the website. AAUW invites campus-based teams of students, faculty, and/or administrators from U.S. colleges and universities to submit proposals for “Campus Action Project” (CAP) grants; the due date is October 16, and the mission-based topic for this cycle is “Breaking through Barriers in STEM for Women and Girls.” Successful teams will be chosen for their proactive efforts to foster student leadership. Each team will be given technical assistance from AAUW’s national office and will be required to work with an AAUW state or branch member who will serve as the community advisor/liaison. This concept meshes well with AAUW Maine’s desire to become more collaborative, teaming with like-minded groups to increase the effectiveness of all parties involved in promoting our causes. These grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The CAP program presents a unique opportunity for campus student leaders to engage with girls and women in their community and provides an excellent platform for ongoing leadership training and support of these student leaders; toward this end, in fact, a member from each successful team will be funded to report on the project at the annual AAUW/NASPA National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, D.C. Much more information is presented on the website. Materials and photos from past CAPs can be viewed. Significant to note, AAUW recently testified before the National Science Foundation’s Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering that the lack of women and girls in STEM has significant implications not only for women’s economic

(Continued on page 6)

AAUW-MAINE EF/LAF REPORT (cont. from pg 5)

security, but also for the overall economy and America's global competitiveness.

June 23 marked the 37th anniversary of Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in federally funded educational programs. To mark the occasion, AAUW co-hosted a Capitol Hill briefing on the need for legislation to require high schools to report gender equity data. AAUW supports the High School Sports Information Collection Act (S. 471) and the High School Athletics Accountability Act (H.R. 2882), which would help communities better enforce Title IX by releasing to the public information about expenditures for high school athletics and the participation rates of female and male students.

Through the LAF Campus Outreach Program, AAUW branches and Members-at-Large can receive up to \$750 each, along with LAF staff support, to implement a gender-equity-focused program or event at a local college or university. Possible topics include but are not limited to: equal pay and preparing for the workplace; sexual harassment on campus; Title IX in the context of athletics or women in nontraditional fields; tenure issues for faculty; and sexual assault on campus. This outreach initiative was launched with the goals of educating students and staff about sex discrimination issues, sharing ways of addressing and preventing sex discrimination, and providing action steps toward creating a more equitable campus climate. Those with a program or event in mind should download and complete the LAF Campus Outreach Funding Request Form; submit it to laf@aauw.org or fax it to 202-463-7169. For help with ideas for programs or events, contact LAF staff at the same e-address or by phone at 202-785-7750.

And a final reminder: it's application time for AAUW fellowships and grants, so be sure to check the website for deadlines and eligibility requirements.

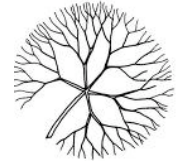
PROGRAM IDEAS FOR BRANCHES

New Programs-in-a-Box have been posted to the AAUW website. Each outlines an activity your branch might undertake, providing all the information needed for implementation including a variety of downloadable resources. Examples of box issues are financial well being, leadership training, promoting "math joy" among children and their caregivers, pay equity, and voter education drives. Outstanding programming possibilities are available in these "boxes"!

BRANCHING OUT

HOULTON BRANCH

by Alison Bossie, grbossie@mfx.net



The small Houlton branch of nine members has planned a full year of programs. We are looking forward to hearing Lisa Maatz in Presque Isle in the fall. We will continue with our Book Talks and will add a Travelogue portion this year. We will also hear a local Rotary Exchange Scholar and learn about the Maine Winter Sports Center. The branch continues to support AAUW causes and our scholarship commitments. We are looking forward to our 81st year!!

PENOBSCOT VALLEY BRANCH

by Janet Givens, hrgcc@aol.com

Lisa Maatz, the wonderful AAUW national public policy director, is coming to speak at the Maine Women's Lobby Breakfasts of Champions. We are hoping that you and your branch members will come to the Breakfast of Champions in Bangor on October 7. We hope to support for Lisa well.

The Penobscot Valley Leadership Team met on August 19 to plan for the 2009-2010 programs and activities. Planning includes the 85th branch anniversary celebration honoring 50-year honorary members and past presidents to be held in September. The branch is already preparing to host the AAUW Maine convention on May 14-15, 2010 in Orono.

We expect to continue supporting the Maine New Leadership Program at UMaine, where young women attend workshops on leadership development, networking, diversity training and the realities of holding public office. Some of Maine's most outstanding women spoke to the group. Barbara Nichols and Janet Givens represented AAUW at a networking reception and dinner for community organizers, policy experts and players on the local political scene. Branch member, Mary Cathcart, was co-director of the program.

WATERVILLE BRANCH

by Bets Brown, wilbro@fairpoint.net

The Waterville Branch is delighted to be conducting a career day for 300 eighth grade girls from six junior high schools on October 13. During this event, all hands are on deck as branch members turn out to welcome the girls and over 60 presenters. AAUW Waterville branch member, Charlie Hartman, is our great leader for this event.

We call this day, "Future Focus," because the girls are exposed to many possibilities for careers. The day starts with a motivational speaker. Then the girls visit with panels of career women representing a wide range of professions.

Physicians, forest rangers, physicists, community planners, judges, large-animal veterinarians, bankers, sculptors, restaurant owners, botanists, and farmers are just some of the professionals represented. The day ends with either a gathering of all the girls together and an interactive program. The event will be held this year at Colby College, and is often held at Thomas College (both institutions are AAUW members).

When we had to cancel Future Focus, several years ago, we came to realize fully how many people look forward to this event. Parents told us that they were very disappointed that their daughter could not participate that year. We haven't missed a year since.

MID-COAST BRANCH

by Judy Dinmore, jdinmore603@roadrunner.com

Our Branch anticipates a busy fall season. Our Program VP, Carol Bachofner, has organized talks that are open to the public at the Rockland Public Library on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Our major fundraising event, the Maine Literary Festival, is presenting "An Evening Exploring the Literature of New Voices in America Reflecting Cross-Cultural Experience" on Saturday, November 7, 2009 in the Camden Opera House, Camden, Maine. Writers from diverse cultures and ethnic experience, whose award-winning novels, non-fiction and poetry are capturing the attention of readers and critics with their beauty, insight and reflection, will participate in this evening bursting with talent, interest and excitement as we kick off a full year of events and programs leading up to the 2010 Maine Literary Festival. The three-hour program of presentations, readings and panel discussion begins at 6:30 p.m. and is followed by a reception for authors and participants, and book signings. A complete program will be available soon at www.maineliteraryfestival.com.

I am also reporting on two community activities held last year. The Mid-Coast Branch co-sponsored a Candidate Forum at which 60 people attended to hear answers to questions posed to Senate District 22 candidates: David Miramont (D), Camden vs. Chris Rector (R), Thomaston (the District covers most of Knox County); also, House District 48 candidates: Charles Kruger (D), Thomaston vs. Bob Carlson (R), Owls Head (the District covers Owls Head, South Thomaston, St. George, Thomaston, and Matinicus). The Forum was held at Watts Hall in Thomaston on September 15th and was organized and moderated by the Maine League of Women Voters with co-sponsors, Coastal Senior College and AAUW Mid-Coast Maine Branch. Additionally, several members wrote letters-to-the-editor concerning the election that were published in local media.

The second major activity centered on healthcare reform. AAUW Mid-Coast Maine Branch organized a presentation

open to the public held at the Rockland Public Library on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, titled, *Your Money or Your Life: The American Health Care System: The Way It Was, Is and Might Be*. The speaker was Dr. Sue Fisher, a Medical Sociologist. A lively discussion ensued, and several members signed-up to be more involved and attended rallies supporting a single payer health plan for our country.



MAINE STUDENT ATTENDS AAUW NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS

Krista Specht, Class of 2010 of Thomas College, received support from the Waterville Branch to attend the June 2009 AAUW/ National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. With the theme "Leadership for Today and Tomorrow," the conference included networking opportunities and more than 50 workshops on a variety of topics such as advocacy, leadership skill building, financial management, and health and wellness. Campaign College, a groundbreaking workshop that encourages young women to run for campus office, was offered as well. More than 300 campus leaders from 38 states, the West Indies, and Nepal attended the annual event presented by the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute and the NASPA Center for Scholarship, Research, and Professional Development for Women.

Specht told her Thomas College mentor, Betty-Jane Meader, "I had a wonderful time at the AAUW leadership conference! It was very inspiring." She was deeply impressed by Kirk Johnson's presentation; he is the creator of the LIST project to resettle Iraqi refugees. She attended several workshops including "Stewardship of the Environment," "The Power Game" (getting to the top without stepping on people to get there, how to deal with a power struggle situation in the work environment), "Muslim Women in Western College," and "How to Get Into Graduate School." Specht told Meader, "I appreciate your help in providing financial aid for me to attend the conference. It was a wonderful experience! I would be willing to tell the Waterville Branch of AAUW about the conference." Specht would most like be willing to speak at other branch meetings as well... if you can catch her, she's a busy woman.

A USEFUL WEBSITE

The **Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center** in Bangor takes a three-pronged approach to women's health care through clinical services, educational services, and issues advocacy. See www.mabelwadsworth.org to learn more about a center that is vital to women in Maine.

AAUW Maine Recognized for Giving to AAUW

AAUW Maine was recognized at the Association convention in St. Louis for achieving **Sixth Place** in the **Top Ten Advocates** for laws and policies that are fair to women through the **State Per Capita Giving to AAUW**. Top Ten Advocates is one of AAUW's highest branch and state honors. It is because of our ongoing support and commitment that the AAUW can continue to be a leading champion for women and girls. Thank you for your generous support!

AAUW Maine State Convention Educates and Motivates Members

by Charmen Goehring-Fox

Last May, the three County branches presented an interesting and educational convention in Presque Isle titled, "The Future is Now: 21st Century Women Step Up." This well-attended, two-day event featured the annual



presentation of our Achievement Citation Award to Penobscot Valley member Sharon Barker and presentations honoring members from each branch.

On Saturday, we heard from two local educators regarding the challenges involved in curriculum development in today's ever-changing world. Members were also treated to an amazing video highlighting just how quickly changes in technology occur. A panel of educators shared how they are inspiring others from within their professions. We heard about a trip to NASA, hiking and camping with young girls (from our own Assistant Professor Anja Wittington), political cartoons, and mapping the diabetes genome. At lunch, members were delighted by Rene Lalibery, a successful graduate of the Upward Bound program.

At our business meeting, Regional Director Patricia Ho shared information about the proposed bylaws that would be voted on at the AAUW convention in June. Charmen Goehring-Fox reviewed information and member comments regarding the open membership requirement. As a state, we voted to support the bylaws changes, including open membership. A new budget was also passed, and it was announced that the development campaign started last year, Keep Maine Connected, would continue in order to allow us to continue putting aside funds for members to

attend conventions and other worthy events. The membership also engaged in voting in members of the executive board-returning Mary Ireland as secretary and Marilyn Leimbach as treasurer and adding Joan Sanzenbacher as Program VP.

The event wrapped up with the wonderful basket drawings, the proceeds from which will support the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund. We were also joined in Presque Isle by several members of the Canadian Federation of University Women-Atlantic Region, which gave the weekend a nice "international" atmosphere! Special thanks to all the hard work by Pat Rathbun and her committee! Please plan to join us in Orono next May!

AAUW Launches 2009-10 Online Directory of Fellowship and Grant Recipients

AAUW has launched the 2009-10 online Directory of Fellowship and Grant Recipients. The directory showcases the recipients of AAUW's five fellowship and grant programs: 214 individuals and nonprofit organizations that will receive more than \$3 million in funding during the current program year. The current fellowship and grant recipients join AAUW's growing network of more than 10,000 fellowship and grant alumnae. To view the directory, visit:

www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellows_directory/index.cfm. To reach an award recipient, contact AAUW at 202/728-7602 or foundation@aauw.org. For information about sponsorship and endowments, contact development@aauw.org. To apply, visit <http://www.aauw.org/education/fga/>. Application questions? Contact aauw@act.org.

AAUW Grants and Fellowships Review Panelists

Have you ever wondered who decides what fellowships and grant applications are funded? Decisions about these proposal are made by people who apply to sit on the review panels. If you have ever thought you might be interested in sitting on such a panel, you only need to fill out an application and sent it along with a vita to the AAUW office. This year's applications are due September 5. Panelists review the applications to select awardees, which are then sent to the AAUW Board of Directors for approval. To apply visit: www.aauw.org/education/fga/panels/index.cfm.

Answers to Quiz on Page 9

a. 1943, b. 1881, c. 1990, d. 1913, e. 1969

AAUW Urges President Obama to Support Ratification of CEDAW

AAUW recently wrote to President Obama urging him to demonstrate his commitment to women's human rights globally by actively supporting ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The letter indicated that it is time for President Obama to signal that our nation also supports women's human rights worldwide and that we are actively working for the day when "our daughters and granddaughters have no limits on their dreams, no obstacles to their achievements," as he said in establishing the White House Council on Women and Girls.

The United States remains the only democracy in the world that has not ratified the CEDAW Treaty, putting our country in the dishonorable company of states such as Iran, Somalia and Sudan. One hundred eighty-six countries, including over 95 percent of United Nations members, have ratified CEDAW. The Treaty is a fundamental framework for ending international violence against women, ensuring girls access to education, and promoting economic opportunity and political participation for women, and the U.S. is long overdue in ratifying it. Despite the declaration by many in Obama's Administration that the CEDAW Treaty is a priority, we have not seen concrete action that calls on the Senate to ratify the Treaty.

AAUW members need to contact their senators to urge them to ratify CEDAW.

SAMPLE PHONE MESSAGE: As your constituent, I am calling because I cannot understand why the U.S. Senate has not ratified the CEDAW Treaty for the Rights of Women, which is critical to ending violence against women and girls and to providing economic opportunity. I urge you to support immediate ratification.

SAMPLE E-MAIL

Dear Senator,
I am writing to urge your support for women's human rights globally by ratifying the CEDAW Treaty for the Rights of Women.

The CEDAW Treaty provides a universal standard for women's human rights. It provides a fundamental framework for ending international violence against women, ensuring girls access to education, and promoting economic opportunity and political participation for women. To date, 186 countries have ratified CEDAW. The United States is the only democratic nation that has failed to do so, and as such is in the company of countries such as Sudan, Iran and Somalia.

The United States should strive to be a leader and set an example for the rest of world in its commitment to women and expanding women's rights. I urge you to work to ensure immediate ratification of the CEDAW Treaty.

Respectfully submitted....

Please take time to support ratification of CEDAW.



AAUW Online Museum

What a wonderful resource the AAUW Online Museum is! By logging into the Member Center (you need your membership number, which you can retrieve at the login site if you have forgotten it), you can visit the AAUW Online Museum. See if you can guess the year of these tidbits of history.

- a. Scientist Florence Siebert wins the inaugural AAUW Achievement Award, established by the Northwest Central Region to recognize an American woman for distinguished scholarly or professional achievement. Siebert invented the first reliable tuberculosis test and improved the safety of intravenous injections.
- b. Marion Talbot and Ellen H. Richards invite 15 alumnae of eight colleges to a Nov. 28 meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. They envision an organization in which women college graduates can band together to open doors of higher education to other women and to find wider opportunities to use their training.
- c. AAUW introduces its fourth and current logo. The "W" in the logo stands for "Women," reinforcing AAUW's focus on education and equity for women and girls. The overlapping triangles represent the collaborative efforts of the three corporations, and the parallel lines suggest the concept of equity.
- d. Members begin pay equity efforts with a report on U.S. Civil Service job classifications and compensation.
- e. AAUW lobbies for a woman to be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Answers on page 8.



Editor's Note: I appreciate everyone's input. Any errors or omissions were unintentional and my responsibility. Please let me know if you have questions about the *Dawn Breaker* or ideas for articles.

BETS BROWN

Editor, *Dawn Breaker*
AAUW Maine
109 Vassalboro Road
South China, Maine 04358
wilbro@fairpoint.net
<http://www.aauwmaine.org/>

All mailing labels are prepared by AAUW Headquarters.
Please send all address corrections directly to:
AAUW Members Records Office
1111 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

CALENDAR 2009-2010

2009

- Oct 2-3 Annual Meeting for CFUW, Atlantic Region in St. John, Newfoundland, Canada
- Oct 4 AAUW Maine Fall Board Meeting and reception welcoming AAUW Public Policy Director Lisa Maatz-see page 3 for more information
- Oct 6-8 AAUW Maine/Maine Women's Lobby Breakfasts of Champions - see article elsewhere in newsletter
- October 6: 7:30-9 a.m., Northern Maine Community College, Presque Isle
- October 7: 7:30-9 a.m. Spectacular Event Center, Bangor
- October 8: 7:30-9 a.m. Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland
- Oct 31 Deadline for revised bylaws to Betsy Eggleston (see p 2)
- Nov 15 Dawn Breaker deadline**
- Dec 11 EF/LAF Contributions due to Susan Landry

2010

- Jan 31 Deadline for Achievement Citation Award Nominees
- Mar 6 AAUW Maine Spring Board Meeting
- Mar 15 Dawn Breaker deadline**
- May 14-15 AAUW Maine State Convention in Orono.
- July 1 FY09 Branch Dues Reports Due
- July AAUW Maine Summer Board Meeting. Location and time to be determined.
- Aug 15 Dawn Breaker deadline**