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**DAWN
BREAKER**
THE NEWSLETTER OF
AAUW MAINE
WINTER 2010/11
VOLUME 58, NUMBER 3



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**ADVOCACY IN CHALLENGING TIMES:
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MAINE**

This year's **AAUW Maine Convention** will feature presentations by intelligent, strong women who advocate daily for women to keep their hard-won rights and to gain rights they have yet to win. The importance of coalitions and women organizing to support their causes, when many forces are working against them, cannot be stressed enough. With this year's theme, "Advocacy in Challenging Times: Making a Difference in Maine," our 2011 Convention will focus on AAUW's efforts to make a difference in Maine and nationally for women and girls. Our keynote speaker, Ruth Lockhart, and our two panelists/discussion leaders, Sheena Bellows and Charlotte Warren, represent their organizations in the Coalition for Maine Women of which AAUW Maine is a member. They will discuss current issues such as paycheck fairness, women's health, Title X, Social Security, and choice.



We are fortunate to have Millie-Hoffler-Foushee, our National AAUW Board Finance Vice President, coming from North Carolina to speak about national issues and the advocacy being done every day on our behalf. All branch and national members are encouraged to attend.

AAUW MAINE CONVENTION INCENTIVE!

Calling all branches! Your board wants to encourage more members to attend convention this April, which will give us a more meaningful time together. To that end, we are offering \$100 stipends to each branch that sends at least four members to our state convention in Ellsworth. The branch can apply the monies however it deems fit to offset registration or gas, etc. The three small county branches will be rewarded as one branch as long as at least four members attend. We hope this small stipend will help to increase branch representation this April.

**2011 NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

Registration (<http://convention.aauw.org/pages/registration.aspx>) is now open for the AAUW National Convention 2011, *Breaking through Barriers-Advocating for Change*, June 16-19 in Washington, DC! A highlight of this year's convention will be the Capitol Hill Lobby Day. For information on programming, accommodations, travel, and more, visit <http://convention.aauw.org>. Let Charmin Goehring-Fox know if you are planning to attend (charminme@yahoo.com).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Charmen Goehring-Fox

Life is such an interesting journey. Situations can change in the blink of an eye, leaving one dizzy at times. And so, we find ourselves in a very different political climate from this time last year. A more difficult climate to be sure, for our progressive AAUW agenda, and, yet, we must continue soldiering on. Indeed, now more than ever, it is important for us to stay the course, keep our agenda front and center and involve our members, families, and friends in our worthy mission of equity for women and girls. We will hear more about how to effectively do this at our state convention next month from some of the top female advocates in our state.



Yes, this is a time of great change, a time which demands adaptation to new skills, new technologies, and new commitment.

It is also a time of change in my personal life. As many of you already know, my husband was laid off from his radio job back in August. After a careful search, he has obtained employment in Lincoln, Nebraska. We are heartbroken to have to leave our adopted home of Maine and all of our wonderful friends and activities. But, for now, this is where our journey is taking us. Barring a miracle of a Boston job calling him in the next few weeks, my boys and I will be leaving to join him in Lincoln in June. This alters AAUW Maine's leadership path and leaves us with a hole we are hoping to fill at convention. I urge you to consider joining the state board, whether as president or for one of the other open positions. I promise you will find generous, kind women to work with and develop friendships with and you will be contributing a valuable service, not only to our beloved AAUW, but also to the women and girls in Maine and beyond.

I saw an article written by New Jersey AAUW State President Sally Anne Goodson, where she quoted Thomas Carlyle, "Cast forth thy Act, thy Word, into the ever-living, ever-working Universe; it is a seed grain that cannot die; unnoticed today, it will be found flourishing as a banyan grove after a thousand years." I certainly hope it doesn't take 1,000 years for women to acquire true equity, and I don't believe our efforts are going unnoticed. It is comforting, though, to believe that our actions, however small, in the journey towards equity for all women and girls will make a difference someday. We may not live to see it, but be assured that it will come and our daughters, granddaughters, even great-great granddaughters will live it and know that we helped to pave the way. This makes it all the more imperative that we continue on, that we don't tire or fall victim to the "been there, done that" syndrome. Future generations are counting on us to walk just a little farther!

That said, I do have to thank all of you for embracing me, for allowing me the privilege of serving on the AAUW Maine board and as your president. I have truly enjoyed getting to know so many of you and, thanks to Facebook and email, I look forward to keeping in touch with you. I plan to continue my AAUW Maine membership as I strongly feel that I will be living here again someday and I want to continue supporting all of the incredible efforts going on in our state. I look forward to seeing you at our Convention in April.

Until we meet again,
Charmen

BOARD BRIEFS

AAUW Maine's Board of Directors met on February 26, 2011 at the home of Joan Sanzenbacher in Waterville. We developed the 2011-2012 budget which will be presented for a vote at the annual business meeting at Convention in April. We also discussed the state convention/annual meeting plans and the many public policy issues in which AAUW Maine and the Coalition for Maine Women are involved. A bylaws amendment regarding the formation of the nominating committee was approved and will also be voted on in April by the membership. The slate of officers for the upcoming term lacks nominees, so nominations from the floor will be necessary. The summer board meeting is planned for July 13, 2011 at Mary Ireland's home in Hope. Please join us.

AAUWACTION.ORG

The AAUW Action Fund advances equity for women and girls through member activism and voter mobilization. At their website (<http://aauwaction.org>), you will find many tools for your use including:

- news about AAUW's Lobby Corps
- sample letters to the editor
- sample op ed pieces
- Congressional voting record (downloadable)
- voter guides
- news and information updates

ACHIEVEMENT CITATION AWARDEE 2011

AAUW of Maine is honored to award this year's Achievement Citation Award to **Dr. Barbara W. Woodlee**, who has had a dedicated and respected career in higher education. She was nominated by the Waterville Branch, of which she is a member. She was a key member of the steering committee for AAUW of Maine's 2007 Pathways to Educational Leadership Conference, which was designed to encourage women teachers and educators to move into leadership positions.



Chapter of the American Council on Education's National Identification Program-National Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education; Board of Directors, Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education; Member of the Executive Advisory board, Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges; and Member of the Board of Directors, Maine Science and Technology Foundation.

Her many achievements in education include appointment in 1984 at Kennebec Valley Technical College (now Kennebec Valley Community College) as the first woman president of a technical college in Maine, a position she still holds, concurrently with Academic Officer for the Maine Community College System. She is the most senior president in the Maine Community College system. She has long advocated for affordable community college education and has been instrumental in developing the KVCC Foundation endowment. A sampling of her other current leadership positions in education include: Executive Committee Member in the Maine

She continues to serve in many leadership roles in the community: Board of Maine General Health (Chair in 2006 and 2007 during a capital campaign for the new regional hospital and construction of the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care); Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mid-State Economic Development Corporation; Board of Directors, United Way; and member of the Waterville School Board. Over three decades ago, she was an early appointee and served for four years on the Governor's Advisory Committee for Displaced Homemakers (now known as Women, Work and Community), which created programs for newly single women with families to raise.



AAUW LEADERSHIP CORPS NEEDS YOU!!

The AAUW Leadership Corps was created in 2009 and replaced the regional directors that we used to have. Having no geographic boundaries, 50 members are selected to form the Leadership Corps group. These members work with branches and states to strengthen collaboration, keep members informed, facilitate multiway communication, problem-solve and to support members, programs and AAUW. They use social media, email, conference calls, webinars and actual face-to-face visits to do their work. Leadership Corps is looking for creative, flexible people who are passionate about AAUW and who are interested in serving in a meaningful way. Applications are being accepted until April 15, 2011. Interviews and reference checking will then take place and invitations to join the Leadership Corps will go out about May 15. The term begins July 1, 2011 and runs for two years. More information, including the application procedures, can be found on www.aauw.org.

AGENDA FOR THE 2011 MAINE AAUW CONVENTION
ADVOCACY IN CHALLENGING TIMES: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MAINE

Friday, April 29 at Jaspar’s Restaurant, Ellsworth

5:30-6:15 p.m.	Registration, social, and cash bar
6:15 p.m.	Welcome from Charmen Goehring-Fox
6:15-7:30 p.m.	Dinner from the menu
7:30-8:30 p.m.	Address from Millie Hoffler-Foushee, National AAUW Vice-President
8:30 p.m.	Branch Awards
9:00 p.m.	Social time at the Hampton Inn

Saturday, April 30 at The Hancock County Technical Center

8:30 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Welcome from President Charmen Goehring-Fox
9:15 a.m.	Keynote Presentation from Ruth Lockhart “Educate to Advocate: Turning Knowledge Into Action”
10:15 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:30 a.m.	Presentation and Discussion on Advocacy with Sheena Bellows and Charlotte Warren
11:45 a.m.	Break
Noon	Lunch and Achievement Citation Award Presentation to Dr. Barbara Woodlee, President of Kennebec Valley Community College
1:15 p.m.	State Board Meeting – President Goehring-Fox presiding
3:00 p.m.	Wrap-up, evaluations, and AAUW Fund Basket Raffle
3:30 p.m.	Adjourn

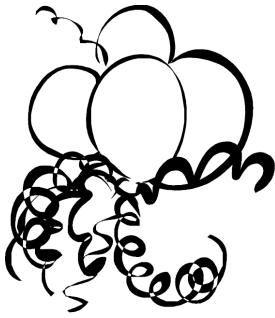
PRESENTERS AT THE 2011 MAINE AAUW CONVENTION

Shenna Bellows has served as the Executive Director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union since March 2005. She returned home to Maine, where she grew up , after spending two years as a National Field Organizer at the ACLU Legislative Office in Washington, D.C. In Washington, Sheena led post-9/11 efforts, developing a field program around the Patriot Act and working to defeat constitutional amendments that would have undermined the criminal justice system, freedom of speech, and LGBT rights. She is active in the Maine Freedom to Marry Campaign, the Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition, and the Maine Choice Coalition.

Millie Hoffler-Foushee is serving her second term as the AAUW Finance V.P. on the national Board of Directors. Her careers include public school teacher, educational consultant, tax professional, and business owner in which capacity she won the Business Owner of the Year award in Maryland. Now living in North Carolina, she has held many AAUW offices, including State President in North Carolina.

Ruth Lockhart is Executive Director and a co-founder of Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center in Bangor. The provides comprehensive reproductive and sexual health education and clinical care, including prenatal and abortion care and basic gynecological services for women of all ages and backgrounds. Ruth has more than 30 years of experience in the field of women’s health. Her work with women ranges from direct services to community education and health care administration. She is a former board member of the SAFE (Safe Abortions for Everyone) Fund, a member of the Coalition for Maine Women and the Maine Women’s Health Campaign and currently serves as the chair of the Maine Choice Coalition. Ruth is a member of AAUW’s Penobscot Valley Branch.

Charlotte Warren is the Associate Director of the Maine Women’s Lobby. Her responsibilities include planning and conducting membership outreach and communications, as well as directing online communications, and overseeing the organizations’ grassroots, education, and research operations. She was elected Mayor of Hallowell in November 2009 after serving as a City Councilor there for eight years.



REGISTRATION FORM
AAUW-MAINE 2011 CONVENTION
ADVOCACY IN CHALLENGING TIMES: MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN MAINE

APRIL 29-30, 2011
 ELLSWORTH, ME

Name: _____

Address: _____

Branch Name: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Friday afternoon, we suggest shopping some of our unique shops such as L.L. Bean, Rooster Brothers (a superb kitchen supplies and food store), and Grasshopper Shop.

Choose One:

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Friday Only – Jaspar’s Restaurant | \$5 |
| Cash bar, crudités tray, with food being ordered being ordered from the menu. | |
| 2. Saturday Only – (includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch) | \$30 |
| 3. Both days | \$35 |

Do you have special needs (physical or dietary)? _____

Please mail registration by April 15, 2011 to: Laurie Williams, 56 Hancock St., Ellsworth, ME 04605.
 Make checks payable to “AAUW.”

Note: A map showing how to get to Jaspar’s Restaurant and the Hancock County Technical Center will be sent to you when you register. If you provide your email address, your registration form and map will be emailed to you.

Overnight guests: The Hampton Inn in Ellsworth is on 6 Downeast Highway. For reservations, call (207) 667-2688. A block of 10 rooms (\$129.00) is reserved for AAUW participants until **Tuesday, March 29, 2011**. If you prefer to stay elsewhere in the greater Ellsworth area, there are other hotels listed on the web. Google “hotels Ellsworth Maine.”



AAUW FUNDS BASKET RAFFLE 2011

Submitted by Susan Nolan Landry, AAUW Funds Liaison

email : susan.landry@umit.maine.edu

We will hold our annual basket raffle at the spring AAUW Maine Convention in Ellsworth to generate AAUW Maine’s contribution to the AAUW Funds; proceeds this year will be divided equally between the Educational Opportunities Fund (fellowships and research) and AAUW Fund (the general fund). Branches should be putting together their baskets now, and I’d appreciate hearing what your themes are so I can let everyone know. Tickets should be available from your branch leadership team (if not now, then soon!) The cost once again is 4 @ \$5 and 10 @ \$10; ticket holders need not be present at convention to win.

Don’t be shy about selling in the workplace and the neighborhood as well as among branch members; we certainly welcome the assistance of neighbors in funding our educational programs and equity advocacy.



STATE BYLAWS REPORT

The Maine AAUW Bylaws are complete and certified correct by the national AAUW office and now the Maine AAUW branches are in the process of updating their branch bylaws. Most branches, Bath-Brunswick, Hancock County, Mid-Coast, Penobscot Valley and Waterville, have sent their updated bylaws into the state.

A proposal to amend our state bylaws to reorganize the state nominating committee will be presented at the annual meeting of the state AAUW on April 30, 2011.

Thank you for your help.
Betsy Eggleston
AAUW ME State Bylaws Chair

THE 2011 AAUW OF MAINE NOMINATING REPORT

by Betsy Eggleston
Nominating Committee for 2010-2011

Taken from the AAUW State Bylaws:

“Section 3. Elections.

- a. All elections shall be held at the annual convention.
- b. Elections shall be by secret ballot unless there is only one nominee for a given office, in which case the election may be by voice vote.
- c. Election shall be by a majority vote of those present and voting.
- d. Positions shall be filled in the following rotation: in even years, president, membership vice president, corresponding secretary; in odd years, president-elect, program vice-president, recording secretary, and treasurer.”

Since 2011 is an odd year, the following positions are up for elections: president-elect, program vice-president, recording secretary and treasurer. Also, the state has vacancies for president and vice-president for membership.

The following positions have a candidate for that office:
Membership Vice President (one-year term):
Betty-Jane Meader
Recording Secretary: Kristin Sweeney

Therefore, for the upcoming election, nominations from the floor are needed for President, President Elect, Program Vice President, and Treasurer.

Last year, Charmen Goehring-Fox extended her term as president for a third year and Lynda DeHahn agreed to a second term as corresponding secretary.



FEATURE YOUR ACTIVITIES ON THE AAUW MEMBER SHOWCASE

Do you want to share your latest program with others or get ideas for an upcoming event? Check out AAUW’s Member Showcase (https://svc.aauw.org/calendar/index_view.cfm). The Member Showcase is a great way to let other AAUW members in the U.S. know what your branch or state is up to. From book sales to Equal Pay Day events, and discussion groups to garden tours, the Member Showcase is here as a resource to you! To publicize your events, email aauwcalendar@aauw.org.

COALITION FOR MAINE WOMEN

Submitted by Bets Brown, AAUW Maine Public Policy Chair

Updates

With the election of Maine's new governor, shaping of a more conservative legislature, and start of the new legislative session, the Coalition for Maine Women has been busy. AAUW Maine representatives have been Sharon Barker and myself. The Maine Women's Lobby is the lead organization in the Coalition of 40 organizations and is joined by groups such as AAUW, Mabel Wadsworth Center; Maine Civic Liberties Union; Planned Parenthood of Northern New England; Maine Equal Justice Partners; Family Planning Association; League of Women Voters; Women, Work, and Community; NOW; Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence; and WAGE Project.

As we do for every legislative session, we worked to establish priorities for the year. These include:

- (1) ensuring that the budget is supportive of women's rights,
- (2) to keep bisphenol A (BPA) out of our packaging as it increases estrogen levels in humans,
- (3) keeping the funding intact for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- (4) defending women's right to choose, and
- (5) keeping Social Security intact in the faces of many challenges from the new Congress in Washington.

I represented AAUW on Monday, March 7, at the State House. In particular, I urged the members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services not to support the proposal to extend sanctions to entire families (rather than just individuals) if a parent is unable to meet Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) requirements because extending sanctions would punish children. I also opposed a strict, five-year time limit for families on TANF. One of the primary reasons families turn to TANF is because of the instability of the low-wage labor market. This proposal would create a lifetime limit, which will disproportionately punish women who comprise 92% of TANF recipients, many of whom run single parent homes.

I have signed AAUW Maine on as a signatory to the letter to Governor LaPage opposing his effort to repeal the rule to ban BPA. Evidence has tied bisphenol A to breast and prostate cancer, early puberty in girls, learning disabilities, and other health impacts.

I am also now active as a representative from AAUW in a group of citizens interested in saving Social Security (see

Elizabeth Johns' article elsewhere in the newsletter on page 8).

During our March meeting, we spent the day learning how to give interviews and to deal with TV and radio media.

Looking Ahead/Where You Are Needed

April 27, 2011 will be the Coalition of Maine Women's **Day at the State House**. We are aiming for a turnout of 100 members of the Coalition. Last year AAUW Maine was represented by three people (Charmen Goehring-Fox, Cathy Bevier, and myself). We must have more AAUW Maine members attend for the day. I have decided that, on this day, I cannot represent AAUW Maine alone, so **PLEASE step forward and make your voice heard**. I would be jubilant with five people. Please contact me (445-4967 or wilbro@fairpoint.net).

As you should know from the communications I sent your branch's communications officer, the newly formed coalition of Maine organizations interested in protecting Social Security has invited Nancy Altman, an expert on pensions and Social Security, to speak on **March 22, 2011**. AAUW Maine is one of 35 sponsors of this event. As a sponsoring organization, we are expected to have **ten** people attend this event to be held at the **Hannaford Hall in Portland at 5:30 pm**. Right now I have **two** signed up. Please join us in attending this event, which should be educational and provide fodder for our work. If you are planning to attend, please let me know so that I can have a count (445-4967 or wilbro@fairpoint.net).



WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON BULLYING PREVENTION

On March 10, the Obama administration held the first ever White House Conference on Bullying Prevention, aimed at drawing attention to the issue of bullying and discussing the growing effort to prevent it. In conjunction with the conference, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama released a joint video address. The President and First Lady are encouraging all Americans to get involved in the anti-bullying movement through the website stopbullying.gov.

AAUW is committed to ending bullying and sexual harassment in our schools, and has conducted many research projects examining the issue, including "Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing, and Sexual Harassment in School."

UPDATE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Submitted by Elizabeth Johns

Although the Obama administration has, to date, rejected calls for restructuring Social Security as a way to bring the federal budget into balance, congressional conservatives remain determined to overhaul the program. With 2012 looming as an election year and polls consistently showing strong public support for the program, sweeping changes seem unlikely this year. But we could see half-measures meant to weaken it.

One such measure passed Congress in December, 2010 reduced the FICA (payroll) tax paid by workers to finance their future benefits. Construed as a temporary economic stimulus and due to expire in December 2012, this cut may be difficult to rescind if opponents reframe it as a tax increase. Senator Susan Collins recently proposed a similar reduction in the employer portion of the FICA tax as an economic stimulus for business. Reducing revenues paid into the Social Security trust fund would, of course, undermine its long-term financing, which is currently strong.

The extremist budget bill passed by Congress in mid-February included a \$1.7 billion cut to the Social Security operating budget for 2011. If any part of that scheme survives (and it could if the Senate and President decide to compromise), it will impair the functioning of Social Security offices nationwide. That, in turn, could damage the program's strong popularity among the public. All such attacks on Social Security must be resisted by those of us who understand its critical importance for seniors, especially women, and many others. For continuing updates, please check the website of the national campaign to defend Social Security, <http://strengthen-social-security.org>. **And it's urgent that you remind our representatives in Congress that Social Security has contributed nothing to the federal deficit, for which better remedies are available.**

AAUW VOICES PROJECT

by Bets Brown, Dawn Breaker Editor

In February AAUW launched its Voices Project in which a country-wide community of media first-responders were to be armed with training, resources, and support and ready to pen op-eds, letters to the editor, blog posts, and more. The goal is to have AAUW voices published throughout the nation to educate the public, spark discussion, and influence the debate. [An op-ed, abbreviated from opposite the editorial page (though often mistaken for opinion-editorial), is a newspaper article that expresses the opinions of a named writer who is usually unaffiliated with the newspaper's editorial board.] Realizing that only 20% of all op-eds written in the United States were written by women, AAUW launched the Voices Project. AAUW is collaborating with a group called American Forum, which is a nonprofit media organization that works to encourage more citizen debate on important societal issues, to train participants in the Voices Project in preparing op-eds.

I decided to sign up for this group because, as Maya Angelou suggested when she was at UMaine Augusta last year, great opportunities arise when you say, "yes." We have had four webinar sessions over a four-week period. We were asked to submit an op-ed on paycheck fairness and Equal Pay Day. American Forum representatives reviewed all 50 of the op-eds submitted. After the participants sign off on their preferred version of the op-ed, American Forum will help these op-eds reach new media outlets. These op-eds will be published around the country on or near Equal Pay Day. I am very excited about this effort because I have new insights into op-eds and the media and because I believe that the Paycheck Fairness bill will be resubmitted to Congress before long. If it is, it will set the stage for making pay equity an issue in the next election.

AAUW Maine members can play a role, by writing letters to the editor, op-eds of their own, letters to their congressional delegates. Sample letters and op-eds for your use can be found at aauwaction.org.

WAGE (WOMEN ARE GETTING EVEN) PROJECT

The WAGE Project, Inc. is a charitable organization established to end discrimination against women in the American workplace in the near future. To do that, WAGE inspires and helps working women to take the steps needed so that every woman is paid what she's worth. The WAGE Project is the means by which women get from earning 77 cents to earning \$1 for every \$1 men earn. WAGE is led by Evelyn F. Murphy, author of *Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men and What To Do About It*, and by Maine's own Annie Houle, National Director of Campus and Community Initiatives.

The \$tart \$mart Workshops reached a milestone: the 150th workshop was held at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio on February 19, 2011. The next Maine \$tart \$mart workshop will be held on April 12, 2011, at the University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME. To participate in this workshop, contact ahoule@wageproject.org.

BE A REVIEW PANELIST!

Submitted by Susan Nolan Landry

You can contribute to the advancement of women and break through barriers to women's achievement in education and the workplace by serving on an AAUW Selection Panel. The AAUW Board of Directors seeks panelists for the following fellowship, grants, and awards panels:

- American Fellowships
- International Fellowships
- Selected Professions Fellowships
- Research & Projects Community Action Grants
- Research & Projects Career Development Grants

Panelists' Responsibilities: Panelists engage in an online process to review applications and recommend candidates to the AAUW Board of Directors for approval as awardees.

Terms: Terms are two years in duration and begin on January 1 of each year; approximately half of the panelists are appointed in each year.

Areas of Expertise Needed:

1) American, International, and Selected Professions panelists should hold an earned doctorate or professional degree and should be employed currently in one of the following fields: anthropology, architecture, art/art history, biological sciences, ecology, business administration, chemistry, computer science/MIS, economics, education, engineering, language/ literature, history, journalism/communications, law, linguistics/ESL, medicine, physical sciences, physics, political science/international relations, psychology, public administration, or sociology.

2) Research & Projects Community Action Grants panelists should have experience in grant writing and/or grant administration, including program evaluation, dissemination, and selection; experience in planning and budgeting for community-based projects and programs; or knowledge of education and equity issues facing women and girls in a broad range of communities.

3) Research & Projects Career Development Grants panelists should have experience in grant writing and/or grant administration, including evaluation and selection; experience in planning and budgeting for similar projects and programs; knowledge of contemporary career areas for women and issues concerning women and girls; or knowledge of institutions of higher education, financial concerns of returning women students, and accreditation requirement.

Panelist Vita Submission: Prospective panelists need to complete an AAUW vita form; forms are accepted on a rolling basis and held for future appointments. Links to the forms for each program are found at http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellowships_grants/panels.cfm.

AAUW values and seeks diversity in its appointments. For more information, e-mail fellowships@aauw.org or write to

AAUW
Attn: Panel Appointments
1111 Sixteenth St. NW
Washington, DC 20036



AAUW FUNDS UPDATE

The merger of the AAUW Association, the Educational Foundation, and Legal Advocacy Fund into one single organization has led to redefinition of AAUW funds and their titles. AAUW is a charitable, 501(c)3 organization. Contributions to AAUW Funds are fully tax deductible and can be restricted to any specific fund or program by writing the fund or program name or number on your check or on an accompanying document. You can also give online at www.aauw.org/contribute. Some of the most commonly designated funds and programs are listed here.

- 1) **AAUW Funds (#9110).** Gifts that are not restricted to a specific fund support programs with the greatest needs.
- 2) **Educational Opportunities Fund (#4336)** (Formerly a part of the AAUW Educational Foundation). A partial list of programs includes: Fellowships and Grants, American Fellowships, International Fellowships, Selected Professions Fellowships, Community Action Grants, Career Development Grants, Fellows Alumnae Initiative, and Undergraduate Scholarship Clearinghouse.
- 3) **Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (#9170)** (Formerly a part of the AAUW Educational Foundation). A partial list of AAUW research reports includes: *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*; *How Schools Shortchange Girls*; *Hostile Hallways*; and *Behind the Pay Gap*.
- 4) **Public Policy Fund (#4337)** (Formerly a part of the Association). A partial list of programs includes: Government Relations, Civic Engagement and Field Organizing.
- 5) **Legal Advocacy Fund (#3999)** (Formerly a part of the AAUW Educational Foundation). A partial list of programs includes: Legal Case Support, LAF Case Support Travel Grants, Campus Outreach Projects.
- 6) **Leadership Programs Fund (#4339)** (Formerly a part of the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute). A partial list of programs includes: the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, Campus Action Projects, and Campaign College.

AAUW SUPPORTS GENDER DISCRIMINATION SUIT AGAINST WAL-MART STORES, INC.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has awarded monetary support to the case *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.* Lead plaintiff Betty Dukes, a Wal-Mart employee, has alleged gender discrimination in pay and promotion policies and practices in Wal-Mart retail stores. Plaintiffs for the case comprise a class of approximately 1.6 million female Wal-Mart and Sam's Club employees.

About ten years ago, Betty Dukes, who worked at Wal-Mart, found out from her manager that she was being discriminated against. Because she did not have a family to support, she was not given the raises that her colleagues with families were given. When she brought this forward, she was demoted and given a pay cut. She began to inquire of others in the company to see if she was or was not alone in this issue. She found around 9,500 other women who would join her in this pursuit.



In 2001, Dukes and other lead plaintiffs filed a motion for class certification with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California to pursue further the case as a class action. Wal-Mart appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, then to a three-judge panel of the same court, and then to the full en banc court. The class certification was affirmed after all three appeals, and now Wal-Mart is appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court. If the court affirms the class certification, the case will become the largest civil rights class action suit in the nation's history.

The U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari on December 6, 2010, and oral arguments on the class certification have been set for March 29, 2011.

"AAUW is proud to lend our support to the lead plaintiffs of this groundbreaking case," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "There is no chance that each of the 1.6 million female employees has the financial resources, time, and patience to pursue her own case against Wal-Mart. AAUW strongly believes that these women's voices should be heard and that they should be able to stand together to fight for their families' economic well-being. Class action cases also have a much stronger deterrent effect, showing the business community that discrimination is not good for the bottom line."

"Wal-Mart claims this case is too big to bring as a class action, but there is no big company exception to the civil rights laws," said Equal Rights Advocates Executive Director Arcelia Hurtado. "The reality is that without a class action, the women working at Wal-Mart will never have their day in court. The women have been treated unequally as a class, and they should be able to assert their rights as a class."

Representing Wal-Mart in this case is the law firm Gibson Dunn. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's son, Eugene Scalia, is a partner at Gibson Dunn, where he leads the firm's Labor and Employment practice group. Gibson Dunn is Wal-Mart's go-to firm on labor and employment cases, and Eugene Scalia has also personally represented Wal-Mart in past cases. **YOU CAN HELP** by signing the petition to have Supreme Court Justice Alito recuse himself from this case. Visit www.walmartwatch.org to sign the petition to have.

WOMEN AND THE WHITE HOUSE



In the spirit of open communication, the White House has created the most accessible and informative presidential website ever. You now can receive weekly updates on women's issues.

Just go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>. From there you can click on the upper right hand corner of the page where it says, "Get email updates." Choices are women's issues, daily snapshot, the economy & jobs, health care, and energy & climate. If you enter your email address and click on women's issues, you'll receive a very informative, weekly email.

It was from this email, that I learned of the new report, "Women in America: Indicators of Social and Economic Well Being," prepared by the Economics and Statistics Administration of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and the Office of Management and Budget of the Executive Office of the President for the White House Council on Women and Girls. This report is downloadable from: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cwg/data-on-women>

The White House also has links to the Council on Women and Girls and blogs on women and girls, all accessible from the White House website. Kudos for this useful information!!

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## WHICH WOMAN SAID IT?

Match the quote with the list of women below. Answers on page 13.

1. You have much more power when you're working for the right thing than when you are working for the wrong thing.
  2. I believe that a worthwhile life is defined by a kind of spiritual journey and a sense of obligation.
  3. Tact is after all a kind of mind-reading.
  4. A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood.
  5. Some day change will be accepted as life itself.
  6. Inside myself is a place where I live alone and that's where you renew your springs that never dry up.
  7. Integrate what you believe into every single area of your life. Take your heart to work and ask the most and best of everybody else.
  8. Love yourself first and everything else falls into line. You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world.
  9. Between two evils, I always picked the one I never tried before.
  10. I believe you cannot go any further than you can think. I certainly believe if you don't desire a thing, you will not get it.
- a. Lucille Ball
  - b. Meryl Streep
  - c. Pearl S. Buck
  - d. Shirley MacLaine
  - e. Rachel Carson
  - f. Sarah Orne Jewett
  - g. Hillary Rodham Clinton
  - h. Peace Pilgrim
  - i. Mae West
  - j. Charleszetta Waddles

## BALANCING WORK AND LIFE

AAUW believes that creating work environments that help employees balance the responsibilities of work and family is good public policy — good for workers, good for families, and good for business. AAUW's 2009-2011 Public Policy Program supports “greater availability of and access to benefits and policies that promote work-life balance,” which are critical for women for “equitable access and advancement in employment.”

Despite the Family and Medical Leave Act and a patchwork of state laws and employer-based benefits — many of which AAUW members helped to pass — family and personal sick leave remain elusive to many working Americans. In addition, despite the relative wealth of the United States, family-oriented workplace policies in this country lag dramatically behind those in much of the rest of the world, including all high-income countries and many middle- and low-income countries as well.

While American workplace policies have lagged, the past 50 years have seen substantial changes in the composition of the American workforce. Two-thirds (64 percent) of women with children under six are in the labor force. Nationwide, 22.9 million families provide care for an adult family member or friend, and nearly 80 percent of those care recipients are over the age of 50.

AAUW will also work to advance policies that will improve workplaces for employees with family responsibilities of all kinds. Such protections and improvements are critical to breaking through educational and economic barriers for women.

## PAID SICK DAYS RESOURCE KIT

Millions of Americans still do not have the option of taking a sick day to care for family members or themselves without putting their jobs, their healthcare benefits, or their family stability at risk. You can download the AAUW Paid Sick Days Resource Kit from the AAUW website. This resource kit contains a variety of useful resources to help you take action for paid sick days. We've included information about state and federal legislation, and step-by-step suggestions to help you pursue legislation mandating a minimum number of paid sick days for all workers.



## **BRANCHING OUT: “WHAT’S DOIN’ AROUND MAINE?”**

### **PENOBSCOT VALLEY BRANCH**

Submitted by Janet Givens for the Leadership Team

The Penobscot Valley Branch has been privileged to hear some wonderful speakers at branch meetings since September, when we heard our own Sharon Barker, who presented an update on the Maine Girls Collaborative. An ice cream social was enjoyed at that meeting.

In October our branch was honored to hear two members of the Sustainability Solutions Project at the University of Maine, Linda Silka, director of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and Kathleen Bell, associate professor of economics. The University of Maine received a twenty million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation to fund the Project.

Branch member, Jean Mac Rae, advisor to Engineers without Borders, a student group at the University of Maine, shared her experiences with this group which strives to foster a worldwide cultural awareness and a strong sense of volunteerism through sustainable and community driven engineering projects. The engineering project in Honduras was most impressive.

A delicious pot luck brunch was enjoyed at Cathleen Bauschatz's home in January.

The March meeting will be held at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the University of Maine when Rachel Hathaway will speak on Microenterprise Lending in Bangladesh. Opportunities for women to better their lives will be discussed.

Our annual book sale will be held on April 9, 2011 at the Church of Universal Fellowship in Orono. All AAUW of Maine members are encouraged to attend. We will have an excellent selection of books and an outstanding lunch menu.

A catered dinner will be served at our branch annual meeting in May at the Church of Universal Fellowship vestry. The new Leadership Team will be introduced, and the Outstanding Branch Member and Achievement Citation Award nominee will be honored.

Financial contributions have been made to AAUW Funds, Maine Women's Lobby, BPW Scholarship Fund, Mabel Wadsworth Center, Church of Universal Fellowship, Engineers without Borders in addition to three book awards at the University of Maine, one scholarship at the University of Maine, and two high school scholarships.

### **HANCOCK COUNTY BRANCH**

Submitted by Betsy Eggleston

The Hancock County Branch met in early December for our annual holiday pot-luck, at which time we collected money and personal care items for donation to the local homeless shelter, the domestic violence shelter, the food pantry, and the University Center in Ellsworth.

In January, we held our annual book report meeting, an informal sharing of books we have read recently which we believe others would enjoy.

Thru the winter, we have been planning to host the State Convention at the end of April.

In March, we shared a dinner meeting with the local BPW chapter. Our speaker was Linda Grindle, president of the Ellsworth Historical Society, who discussed the early women in Ellsworth, many of whom started local businesses.

### **BATH-BRUNSWICK BRANCH**

Submitted by Lynda DeHaan

The Bath-Brunswick Branch has been continuing a very busy and productive year. Our Greens Event in December garnered generous donations from our members which enables continuation of our successful new scholarship for a non-traditional college student at the University College at Bath-Brunswick, as well as continuing to support AAUW Funds at the national level. In the past two months, the branch has welcomed three new members including transfer member Deborah Cravey who has returned to the Brunswick area. This brings our current membership up to 62 members.

In January, a large group of members attended a luncheon that featured guest speaker, branch member Charlotte Price, who reported on her trip to Cuba with an AAUW delegation to research “Gender Equity and Women’s Roles in Cuba.” As part of the first U.S. graduate program in Women’s History, Charlotte discussed women’s equity and women’s roles in the economy in U.S. history from colonial time to the present as well as international economics and development in third world countries. Charlotte also shared her impressions of the Cuban women panelists in various aspects of their lives including sexual education and reproductive rights.

Branch member Elizabeth Doucette, Director of Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, was congratulated on the recent award of a \$73,000 grant from the American Library Association and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation

## BRANCHING OUT (CONTINUED)

to develop financial training materials and programs to meet the unique needs of women.

### MID-COAST BRANCH

Submitted by Judy Dinmore

For the first time we awarded a 'lift-off' scholarship to a non-traditional student at University of Maine's Hutchinson Center. We had success with our November fund raising letter. One large donation of almost \$5,000 was contributed to the Bridget M. and Kenneth Q. Paddock Scholarship.

The theme for our raffle basket is "Gift of the Sea" to be awarded at the AAUW Maine convention on April 29-30th.

A member represented AAUW at the event to "Stand in Solidarity with Maine's Family Planning Health Centers" in Portland on March 1st. It is vital to Maine's girls and women that access to female health services be maintained to detect health problems early, to limit the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, for healthy pregnancies, to keep unplanned teen pregnancy rates low, to keep down the number of unwanted pregnancies and the demand for abortions. This is especially important in rural and under served areas of our state. Funding cuts proposed by Congress threaten these services.

Our upcoming programs are: April 20th *Trio of Poets: The Maine Experience* and May 18th *Not Just Sports: The History and Context of Title IX* - speaker is Sue Estler. All our programs are free and open to the public at the Rockland Public Library on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Members of other branches are warmly welcome. Come at 12 noon and join us for a brown bag lunch and meeting. Our annual luncheon is planned for June 15th.

### WATERVILLE AREA BRANCH

Submitted by Bets Brown

What fun we've had this year! And, I am unabashedly going to brag about my fellow members! You've heard already about our fall speakers. All our members participate to make the branch an enjoyable and successful group of women. One key powerhouse in our branch is Betty-Jane Meader, who served as auctioneer extraordinaire for our December auction. She also brings treats month after month.

Charlie Hartman and Cathy Bevier have been preparing for our most exciting event of the year, Future Focus Career Day for eighth-grade girls to be held on March 25. These 300+ eighth-grade girls meet with sixty women and learn

about a diversity of careers they might undertake. The careers represent a broad range of fields, such as medicine (human & veterinary), alpaca farming, business, forestry, herpetology, law, politics, chemistry and much more. The girls also attend how-to workshops and hear from a motivational speaker.

In February our speaker was Jean Rosborough, an expert on Special Education and No Child Left Behind. She now consults by working with some of the most challenging problems children face.

In March we will hear from Dr. Melanie Thompson, Assistant Chief of Staff at the Togus Medical Center. She will tell us about women and healthcare in the Veterans Administration.

Another force in our branch is Jackie Kulik, who not only hosted our February meeting, but every month holds a drawing (\$1 per ticket) to raise money for the branch's contribution to the AAUW Funds. She donates prizes and makes it lots of fun. Barbara Wilson often wins.

Others in the branch continue to keep our work going. Marilyn Leimbach is our steady Communications Officer, sending out news from all sorts of places as it arrives. Mary Ellen Dennis keeps our books and let's us know where we stand fiscally. Cathy Bevier has taken up the challenge of being Membership Chair and keeping us up-to-date on who's who. ALL our members step up to help for these events in one way or the other. Apologies to those I should have mentioned, but didn't.

My last bit of news is that after trying for over a year, the Waterville Area Branch will be collaborating in September with Colby College's Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement to host Maine's Chief Justice, the Honorable Leigh Ingalls Saufley. Let me know if you're interested in attending.



### **ANSWERS TO THE WHICH WOMAN SAID IT? QUIZ**

- 1-h
- 2-g
- 3-f
- 4-e
- 5-d
- 6-c
- 7-b
- 8-a
- 9-i
- 10-j

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**BETS BROWN**

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**CALENDAR 2011**

- Mar 22** Social Security presentation at USM's Hannaford Hall in Portland at 5:30 p.m. (see article on page 7)
- Apr 12** Start Smart Workshop at the University of Southern Maine
- Apr 15** Mail in registrations for AAUW Maine Convention due
- Apr 15** Ballots for national elections mailed to all members
- Apr 27** Day at the State House (see Coalition for Maine Women article on page 7)
- Apr 29-31** Annual AAUW Maine Convention
- May 1** Online voting for national elections begins
- May 31** Deadline for mailing paper ballots back to AAUW
- Jun 17** Deadline for online voting, 9 p.m. EDT
- Jun 16-19** National AAUW Convention, Washington DC
- Aug 15** *Dawn Breaker* deadline
- Ongoing** Applications accepted to be an AAUW review panelist