



Mission Statement: AAUW advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas

Value Statement: By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch

www.aauwbridgeport.org

President's Message

Are you ready for a holiday social with opened-minded friends? In this mailing is a reservation form for our annual Holiday Brunch at Oronoque Country Club on December 7th. Please don't put the form aside but send it in today!

Our program co-chairs, Phyllis Mankowitz and Gretchen Goethner are to be commended for the outstanding programs planned for our General Meetings this year. In September, Prill Boyle had the audience mesmerized as she enthusiastically talked about women who passionately involved themselves in new careers in their mature years. The audience was full of questions about politics and the media at our October meeting with guest Dr. Donald Greenburg.

Twenty-nine women have responsibility for our branch this year. Eleven are on the board, seven are committee chairs, five are group leaders and six are on the Finance Committee. Even with all the responsibilities accepted by these women, two positions go unfilled – executive VP and newsletter editor.

In the meantime everyone is pitching in to get jobs done. I want to thank Communications VP, Linda Suhr; Membership VP, Judi Polizzotti; Claire Shumofsky, and last year's co-newsletter editor Mary Ann Matthews for getting out the hefty September newsletter with all the meeting dates and the calendars for the various groups. The November newsletter is smaller so it can be mailed to everyone

with the Holiday Brunch reservation form. We hope someone will offer to help as a co-newsletter editor by the time we get the January issue out.

Our branch is sponsoring a Smart Start workshop at Housatonic Community College. Participants will learn what wages to ask for and how to bargain at a job interview. Did you know that men are more likely to initiate salary negotiations than women and that because women’s base salary starts lower, a woman worker may lose more than \$500,000 by age 60 because she didn’t negotiate her first salary? This workshop will be presented by Johanna Malinowski with assistance from Judi Polizzotti.

“Kids in high school, where social interactions are really important, think ‘If I’m not an Asian or a nerd, I’d better not be on the math team,’ ” according to a recent study published in *Notices of the American Mathematical Society*. As a result many women who could succeed as top researchers, engineers and scientists are not being encouraged as much as women in many other countries. In recent years AAUW programs like our Math and Science Expo work to encourage girls in these important fields.

Merrilyn

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PUBLIC POLICY

It was announced in October that the National Science Foundation has granted \$249,000 to AAUW to launch a major study of the “causes and dynamics” of low participation of girls and women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. This is the fourth grant from NSF for AAUW. Progress has been made in STEM fields, but women remain far behind in areas such as computer science. High School girls represent only 17% of Computer Science Advanced Placement courses and college women earn only 27% of bachelor degrees in math and computer science. Three previous grants from NSF to AAUW have all been committed to find reasons for this and encourage participation of girls/women in these critical areas.

A recent study by Guttmacher Institute found that public funded family planning clinics helped couples and women to prevent 1.4 million unintended pregnancies in 2004. If family planning services were non-existent abortion rates would be 50% higher than the current rate. By funding these services, it is estimated that state/federal governments saved \$4.3 billion in one year. Although the number of abortions continues to decline, the abortion rates for women of color still remains high.

Social security benefits will increase 58% next year for the 50 million people currently receiving benefits. The increase is approximately \$63 more a month. While it is the largest increase in 25 years, it may seem meager to millions of retirees who rely on S.S. in light of the poor economy and rising prices of food, heating oil and volatility of financial markets.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D) plans to call the Senate back to Washington for a lame-duck session the week of Nov. 17. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D) and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D) are both opposed to coming back in session after the November elections. It remains unclear how much business can be accomplished without both parts of Congress present.

Jean Weicker

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**HCC WOMEN'S CENTER
BRIDGEPORT AAUW & AAUW-CT
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
NOVEMBER 13TH 11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
IN
BEACON HALL ROOM 288**

DID YOU KNOW: MEN ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO INITIATE SALARY NEGOTIATIONS THAN WOMEN?

DID YOU KNOW: A WORKER STANDS TO LOSE MORE THAN \$500,000 BY AGE 60 IF SHE FAILS TO NEGOTIATE HER FIRST SALARY?

DID YOU KNOW: WOMEN STILL MAKE \$.77 ON THE DOLLAR COMPARED TO MEN

BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS WORKSHOP YOU WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT...

- RESOURCES FOR BENCHMARKING REASONABLE SALARIES AND BENEFITS
- LEARN ABOUT JOB TITLES, THEIR FUNCTIONS AND SALARY RANGES, THE IMPACT OF MARKET REALITIES ON SALARIES
- COMPARE SKILLS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO JOB REQUIREMENTS AND MARKET TO TARGET A REALISTIC SALARY RANGE
- NEGOTIATION: HOW TO AIM HIGH AND BE REALISTIC; PRACTICE NEGOTIATION THROUGH ROLE PLAYING EXERCISES.
- KNOW YOUR BOTTOM LINE: DEVELOP A "BARE BONES" BUDGET TO PAY RENT, BUY GROCERIES, REPAY STUDENT LOANS, & OTHER BASIC EXPENSES.

THE WAGE GAP AFFECTS THE ENTIRE FAMILY. WE WELCOME ALL HCC STUDENTS MALE AND FEMALE TO ATTEND AND LEARN WITH US.

Bridgeport Branch Calendar- 2008-2009

November 13th -Smart Start Workshop Housatonic Community College
November-13th -Evening Book Group- Home of Louise MacCormack
November-18th -Morning Book Group-Watermark
December 2nd –Board Meeting-Bayview
December-7th -Holiday Luncheon-Oronoque Country Club
December-9th-Contemporary Global Issues-Bayview
January 8th-(Feb.12 Snowdate) Evening Book Group-Home of Gloria Manning
January-14th -Finance Committee Meeting- Home of Gloria Francesconi
January-27th –Morning Book Group-Watermark
February 3rd –Board Meeting-Bayview
February 24th-Morning Book Group-Watermark
March 11th -Finance Committee Meeting-Home of Gloria Francesconi
March 12th-Evening Book Group-Home of Claire Shumofsky
March 19th -General Meeting-Topic: Ethics of War-Trumbull Library
March 24th -Morning Book Group-Watermark
April 7th -April 7th Branch Board Meeting-Bayview
April 16th -Evening Book Group- Home of Louise MacCormack
April 18th -General Meeting-Author’s Luncheon-Title: Four Queens-Trumbull Library
April 28th -Morning Book Group-Watermark
May 13th -Finance Committee Meeting-Trumbull Library
May 14th -Evening Book Group-Home of Judi Polizzotti
May Annual Meeting – Oronoque Country Club
May 26th -Morning Book Group-Watermark
June 2nd -Branch Board Meeting- Bayview
June 11th -Evening Book Group-Dinner Meeting-Home of Phyllis Mankowitz

**AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch
Annual Holiday Brunch
Oronoque Country Club
Sunday, December 7, 2008
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Menu

Assorted Chilled Juices	Baked Pastries with Fruit Preserves and Butter		
Freshly Sliced Fruit	Scrambled Eggs with Chives, Sausage Links, Crispy Bacon		
Herbed Breakfast Potato	Mixed Green Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette		
Chicken Française	French Toast	Rice Pilaf	Seasonal Vegetable Selection
Chef's Assorted Desserts Station	Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, and Tea		

Deadline for Reservation Returns: Sunday, November 30

Please bring unwrapped gloves, hats, or scarves for the children of Wilbur Cross School.

Your check for \$29.00 includes food, tax, and gratuity.

Please make check payable to **AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch**.

Mail to: Marilyn Moore
62 Gatehouse Road
Trumbull, CT 06611

For questions contact Marilyn Moore at 268 - 4385 or mtmoore62@aol.com.

Directions: Route 15 South - Wilbur Cross/Merritt Parkway

Take Merritt Parkway to Exit 53 (directly after Stratford Bridge).
Take a right off exit ramp. Sikorsky Aircraft will be on your right.
Take first left at light onto Oronoque Lane. At stop sign continue straight.
Club is ahead on your left.

Directions: Route 15 North - Merritt Parkway

Take Merritt Parkway north to Exit 53 (Shelton-Stratford Route 110).
Take left off exit ramp and pass under Merritt Parkway.
Take first left at light onto Oronoque Lane. At stop sign continue straight.
Club is ahead on your left.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Number of Reservations _____ x \$29.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

