

AAUW BRIDGEPORT AREA BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

Oronoque Country Club	May 12, 2009
Cocktail Hour	6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Dinner Buffet	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Buffet Menu

Seasonal Fruit, Garden Salad, Fresh Mozzarella and Roma Tomato Salad
Sautéed Boneless Breast of Chicken in a Lemon Caper Sauce
New England Baked Scrod
Seasonal vegetable, rice, potatoes
Dessert, Coffee, Tea

Reservations by Tuesday, May 5th

Check for \$30.00 includes dinner, tax and gratuity.

Payable to Bridgeport Area Branch AAUW

Mail reservation form and check to Marilyn Moore
62 Gatehouse Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
Phone: 203 268 - 4385

Directions Rt 15 North- Wilbur Cross/Merritt Parkway

Merritt Parkway North to Exit 53 Shelton/Stratford (Rt 110)
Turn left off exit ramp and pass under Merritt Parkway.
Take first left onto Oronoque Lane.
At stop sign, continue straight. Club is ahead on your left.

Directions Rt 15 South- Wilbur Cross/Merritt Parkway

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

Bridgeport Area AAUW Annual Dinner May 12, 2009

Name _____

Phone _____

Number of reservations _____

**AAUW/CT Convention 2009
Registration Form**

Name _____
(as you wish it to appear on your name tag)

Branch _____

Leadership Position _____
_____ Branch _____ State _____ National

Voting Status – Check One
_____ Branch President _____ State Officer/Leadership Team
_____ Branch Delegate _____ Past AAUW/CT President
_____ Member-at-Large _____ Non-member/Non-voting Attendee

Mailing Address _____
City/State/ZIP _____
Phone: Daytime _____ Evening _____
E-mail Address: _____

Friendship Gathering/Reception: 8:00 – 11:00 P.M. Friday, April 24, 2009
Hosted by Danbury Area Branch
Essex A Ethan Allen Hotel

Please check your intention.

_____ I will be attending the Friendship Gathering on Friday evening.
_____ I will not be attending the Friendship Gathering on Friday evening.

Convention/Annual Business Meeting: Saturday, April 25, 2009 8:00 A.M. -3:30 P.M.
Essex B-C Ethan Allen Hotel

Registration Fee: \$40 includes Continental Breakfast and Buffet Luncheon
Make checks payable to AAUW/CT

Registration Deadline April 11, 2009. Send this form and payment to:

Carol Blauvelt
128 Indian Waters Drive
New Canaan, CT 06840

For additional information, contact her at:
Telephone: 203.966.7059 E-mail: CABLAUVELT@aol.com Fax: 203.966.3006

Total Enclosed: \$ _____



**Breaking through Barriers
from STEM to Stern**

AAUW/CT 2009 Convention

- 8:00-8:45** Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00-10:30** **Welcome:** Julia Horne, Danbury Area Branch President
Remarks
- 2009 NCCWSL Branch Grants:** Lin Rising, AAUW/CT C/U Liaison
Tribute to Edie Zoltan: Sophie Godward, Danbury Area Branch Public Policy
- Annual Business Meeting**
- 10:45-12:00** **AAUW Champion:** Gail Nordmoe, AAUW Executive VP/Secretary
- 12:00-1:00** **Buffet Luncheon**
Recognition of Merle Harris, President Emerita, Charter Oak State College: Carol Virostek, AAUW/CT Past President
- 1:15 – 1:45** **AAUW Champion:** Gail Nordmoe, AAUW Executive VP/Secretary
- 2:00 – 3:00** **STEM Presentation-Athena Girls in Science & Mathematics Project:**
Aresta Thompson & Students, Bridgeport, CT
- 3:00 – 3:15** **Vet/OASIS Project Update:** Barbara Campbell-Smith
- 3:15 – 3:30** **Looking Ahead/Adjournment**

Convention Information and Logistics

Onsite Convention Committee

Julia Horne, Branch President;
Anne Hill, Program Vice President;
Sophie Godward, Public Policy Chair

Friendship Gathering

Friday, April 24th 8:00 -11:00 P.M.

Hosted by Danbury Area Branch

**Ethan Allen Hotel
Essex A**

Convention Accommodations

Ethan Allen Hotel

21 Lake Avenue Extension
Danbury, CT 06811
PH. 203.448.7136
800.742.1776
FAX 203.748.0036

The hotel is holding 12 rooms for us.

**Make reservations by March 27, 2009, for special
convention room rate of \$109 plus tax**

www.ethanallenhotel.com

Directions to the Ethan Allen Hotel

From I-84 (East or West) take Exit 4. At the light, turn right and the hotel will be on your right, after the underpass. Handicapped parking is available directly in front of the building and there is adequate parking for all others. All convention meeting rooms are on the first level.

Danbury Area Doings

Hotel check-in time is at 3:00 p.m. If you arrive earlier, you may enjoy taking the hotel shuttle to the famous Danbury Mall, a short drive away. There you may have lunch at any number of good restaurants or do a little for the economy in the great shops at the mall.



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.

APRIL 2009 NEWSLETTER AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch
www.aauwbridgeport.org

President's Message

We had a good turnout for our March general meeting on the ethics of war. WE THANK Phyllis Mankowitz and Gretchen Goethner for arranging for our presenter, Dr. David Schmidt. I was also glad to see some members present who hadn't attended recent meetings.

Dr. Schmidt discussed the implications of modern wars where civilians are in harm's way and where private security firms take over functions formerly performed by the military.

Our next general meeting is our AUTHOR'S LUNCHEON. Our speaker will be Nancy Goldstone, author of *Four Queens*, which is about four medieval sisters who married royalty and how they affected history. An informal lunch will be served at noon at the Trumbull Library, on Saturday April 18, 2009 before Nancy's presentation. Hope to see many of you and your friends at this popular gathering.

President Obama recently signed an executive order creating a White House Council on Women and Girls, to help eliminate the challenges they face and to ensure that cabinet-level agencies coordinate their policies and programs that affect women and girls. President Obama said full equality for women was far from done. He mentioned women earning 78 cents on the dollar for equal work compared to men, and that one in four women experience domestic violence. (It sounds like he has been talking with women familiar with AAUW's mission.)

Michelle Obama joined Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton later that same day to present the Secretary of State's Award for International Women of Courage to women representing, among other countries, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Uzbekistan, and Yemen. Michelle Obama said "The president and I share the belief that communities are only as strong as the health of their women."

I have recently read and recommend *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Relin. Greg Mortenson builds school, mainly for girls, in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mortenson goes to war with the root causes of terror every time he offers a student a chance to receive a balanced education rather than attend an extremist *madrassa*. As Anna Quindlen said in a recent column, "The best rear-guard action on the war on terror is a war on poverty and ignorance."

Spring is here. Enjoy it!

Merrilyn

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Contemporary Global Issues

The next meeting of Contemporary Global Issues is April 14, 2009 at 9:30 at Bayview. The topic is Afghanistan and Pakistan. Facilitator is Jean Weicker.

Some of our members who are also in the League of Women Voters have drawn our attention to their annual symposium on International Relations. This year's symposium is called BRIC: Brazil, Russia, India, China: *Giants on The Move*. The event is held Thursday, April 23, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Alumni Hall, Carl Hansen Student Center, Quinnipiac University, 275 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden, CT

Student tickets are \$10 and adult tickets are \$20 before April 15. Mail to LWVCTEF, Inc., 1890 Dixwell Ave., Suite 203, Hamden, CT 06514-3183 Enclose a self-addressed envelope for your tickets. After April 15 or at the door tickets cost \$25. For further information phone 203-288-7996

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Program

Author Luncheon Noon, Saturday, April 18, 2009 Trumbull Library

Our author luncheon this year features Nancy Goldstone, author of Four Queens, the story of the four daughters of a Provençal count in the 13th century. Each became queen and a powerful force in the events of the day.

Gretchen Goethner

Public Policy

President Obama signed an executive order recently establishing a White House Council on women and girls. Creation of this kind of council has long been championed by AAUW. The mission will be aimed at legislative policies and research. The overall goal is “to ensure that our daughters, and granddaughters have no limits on their dreams, no obstacles to their achievements ...and that they have opportunities that their mothers and grandmothers and greatgrandmothers never dreamed of.”

The Obama administration cleared the way for a 50 million dollar contribution to United Nations Population Fund, the first donation since 2002 . It is supported by AAUW, as well as 180 member nations of the United Nations. It will work to improve the health of women and children, reduce poverty, provide family planning in 154 countries, and prevent the further spread HIV/AIDS. Condoms work, no matter what the Pope thinks.

Jean Weicker

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Community Action

At the December holiday party, some members donated money (a total of about \$40) to help produce a musical theater production at Wilbur Cross. I just learned that it will not be possible this year - for a good reason! One of the teachers is going on maternity leave. Please contact me if you would like your donation returned. If not, I will purchase gloves and hats and have them ready to bring to Wilbur Cross when the weather gets cold again next December.

Lorraine Conway

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Networking

Our last networking gathering, on March 12th, was at Ash Creek Saloon in the cowgirl room. This is a departure from the serene Victorian atmosphere of Bayview but the conversation was as lively as the surroundings.

After having a hearty rib dinner, members discussed the status of women’s rights in the world. The discussion flowed from the highlights of the UN Commission on the Status of Women that I shared with the group. The message was that sharing responsibilities for caregiving and the equality of women benefits the entire family. (See highlights in this issue)

We plan on having the next gathering in May. An email will be sent to all members with the date and location.

Judi Polizzotti

Wilbur Cross Volunteers

So many of our volunteers have either gone to FL for the winter, or like Chris, are not able, at this time, to do their weekly tutoring. The volunteers are truly missed by their teachers. We are entering a crucial period in the school year. Students (with a little help) may be able to move on to the next grade. Others, because of no extra help, will be left behind. Remember, we have adopted Wilbur Cross. Please volunteer to tutor for the last few months of the school. You may enjoy it so much, as I do, you'll return next year.

J. Weicker

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Bridgeport Branch Calendar- 2008-2009

March 31st-Branch Board Meeting-Bayview

April 16th -Evening Book Group- home of Louise MacCormack

April 18th -General Meeting-Author's Luncheon-Title: Four Queens
By Nancy Goldstone-Trumbull Library

April 28th -Morning Book Group-Watermark

May 12th-Annual Meeting and Dinner, Oronoque Country Club

May 13th -Finance Committee Meeting-6:30p.m.-home of Gloria Francesconi

May 14th -Evening Book Group-home of Judi Polizzotti

May 26th -Morning Book Group-Watermark

June 2nd -Branch Board Meeting-6:00 p.m.- Bayview

June 11th -Evening Book Group-Dinner Meeting-home of Phyllis Mankowitz

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United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

From March 2nd through March 13th, I was privileged to attend the 53rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). AAUW registered members under its newly acquired ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) consultative status. Members included Bonnie Lincoln, AAUW International Affairs Committee Chair, Carolyn Donovan, AAUW UN representative, Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director, Diane Haney, AAUW College Partner Representative and former NY State President, and Josselyn Portillo a student attending Adelphi University sponsored by Carolyn.

Overview

The session's priority theme was "Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. In light of the current financial crisis, CSW has also addressed an emerging issue critical to all women in the world "Gender Perspectives on the Global Financial Crisis".

AAUW and a number of NGOs (non-governmental organizations) in consultative status with ECOSOC issued a statement that focused on eliminating all forms of discrimination against girls, specifically addressing violence, education, economic exploitation and harmful cultural attitudes and practices.

US Mission to the UN-Policy Shifts

Meryl Frank, the US delegate to the commission, announced from the floor of the session that "Representing the Obama administration, CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) is an important priority and is under review". The response from the commission was that "it's long overdue". CEDAW is an international treaty (called an international bill of rights for women) which was enacted on September 3rd 1981. President Carter signed the treaty in 1980, but it has yet to be ratified. Currently, there are 185 countries that have ratified the treaty.

The administration's commitment to promote the rights of women was also emphasized when Ms. Frank suggested that "President Obama wants to utilize not just a few but all of the members of the community". Empowering all women expands the labor force and supports the global community.

At a meeting with the US mission representatives at the Episcopal Church Center, Meryl also announced that the "US has removed language, the so called Mexico City Policy, which prohibited NGOs working abroad from using U.S. funding to provide or even offer counseling about the full range of family planning options. And the US is reviewing its funding of the UN Population Fund". From these statements, it appears that the new administration is pursuing family planning initiatives.

Equal Sharing of Responsibilities

There are societal costs associated with not identifying, measuring and sharing unpaid care giving work. CSW panelists suggested that the "costs of unequal sharing of responsibilities include a weaker labor market for women, weaker access to social security benefits and less time for education and training, leisure and self-care and political activities".

As the delegates shared their statements, countries around the world learned methods of modifying social policy and taking legislative action to improve the life of the family.

The idea that "everyone benefits from gender equality" permeated panel discussions and the delegates statements.

This is a brief summary of the priority theme and important announcements. To view a more comprehensive description, I am emailing members the complete highlights document.

Judi Polizzotti, VP Membership

