



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

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

FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch
www.aauwbridgeport.org

President's Message

This winter has brought more snow than we ever dreamed possible. It inspires us to read by the fireplace or in a sunny window. We hope that everyone is safe and warm. In January, our schedule slows while we wait quietly for a thaw. Perhaps when we see the birds foraging for food it means the weather is turning towards spring.

At the September kickoff meeting, we presented our focus on partnering with local area organizations. At the holiday dinner, Jane Ferreira President of the Mercy Learning Center shared her inspiring story of the Center's mission and work with local area women. Her presentation provided our members with a number of ways to get involved in the program whether it's donating needed items or tutoring women in Math or English.

In January, the Discovery Museum gave us an opportunity to hear "To the Stars and Back" with music under the stars, and Mary Jane Foster VP of University Relations at University of Bridgeport extended an invitation to attend a viewing of a film and panel discussion on Women Entrepreneurs in Afghanistan.

On February 21, our branch is sponsoring, Mina K. Tumba a student at HCC and Laiali Almazaydeh an Engineering Student at UB's, attendance at the NGO Consultation Day and the 55th Commission on the Status of Women meetings at the United Nations. The theme of this year's meeting is STEM (Women in Science Technology Engineering and Math). We look forward to hearing about their experience at one of our future meetings in the spring.

On March 30th at the Trumbull Library, we will enjoy a discussion from the 2009 Connecticut Professor of the Year, Dr. Laura Nash, of her program "Music for an Urban District". It should be an innovative and informative evening. We encourage all of you to attend and bring friends and family.

Also this year on Saturday April 16th at the Trumbull Library, we have a special event highlighting the service and dedication of "Women in Flight" with four of the

six CT Women Air Service Pilots (WW II WASPS) who received Congressional awards last year. We would like to encourage you to tell friends and family about this exciting event.

Judith Polizzotti, Co-President AAUW Bridgeport

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AAUW General Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Trumbull Library

Dr. Laura Nash

Program Director of Music, Fairfield University

**Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
2009 Connecticut Professor of the Year**

Dr. Nash was honored for her innovative program, Music for an Urban District. With a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Fairfield University faculty from the Department of Visual and Performing Arts were able to collaborate with Bridgeport teachers in a mentoring relationship to develop programs to bring music to inner city classrooms. Among the notable successes of the program is the African drum circle.

Dr. Nash, known on campus for her enthusiasm and creativity, will speak about the continuation and expansion of this program in and beyond the local schools.

Gretchen Goethner, VP Programs

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AAUW General Meeting

Saturday, April 16, 2011

12:00 p.m.

Trumbull Library

On Saturday, April 16, 2011 at our annual luncheon, we will be hosting the six CT Women Air Service Pilots (WWII WASPS), and four of the six plan to attend! They are the women pilots who received Congressional awards last year, the highest medal a civilian can receive. They have great stories to tell, such as the fact that CT was a “no-fly” zone and they had to take lessons out of state! We’ll also have videos of WASPS who can’t attend. This visit to the past will be combined with a look to the future, with an overview of current programs for women in aviation, in keeping with AAUW’s STEM program. Representatives from various flight programs, Civil Air Patrol, and possibly a shared event with the Discovery Museum are also in the works. Stay on the watch for more details!

Linda De Leon, VP Membership

Scholarship

The following information gives the requirements for women of any age to apply for an AAUW scholarship. If you know any women who meet the requirements for eligibility, please encourage them to call or email me if they have further questions. The application is available at the AAUW website as listed below.

The Bridgeport Area Branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) is pleased to announce that approximately \$5000 in scholarship funds will be awarded this year to local women who have not received prior scholarship aid from AAUW. Applicants must be a resident of any of the following towns for at least two years: Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Newtown, Shelton, Stratford, and Trumbull. They must have completed at least 30 college credits by June 2011 and plan to continue their education for the school year 2011-12 in order to qualify. Applications may be downloaded from the AAUW website under the link for education: www.aauwbridgeport.org. For additional information or questions, please call Lorraine Conway, Scholarship Chairperson 203-268-5896 or e-mail: lortok@aol.com

**Lorraine Conway
AAUW Scholarship Chairperson**

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Networking

We gathered at the Shell Station Restaurant in Stratford, prior to the November fundraiser. Members enjoyed both the seafood dinner, conversation and the performance of “Mousetrap”. We hope to have an evening dinner in the local area in February to reconnect with friends and meet new members. I’ll email possible locations and dates.

**Judi Polizzotti
Co-President AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch**

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AAUW Evening Book Discussion

The Evening Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, March 15, at Louise MacCormack’s. The 10th, the original date, is the author lecture for One Book One Town in Fairfield: Jonathan Floeur’s Eating Animals, at 7:30 at Roger Ludlowe Middle School in Fairfield. Free—but register after Feb. 1.

Louise MacCormack

Contemporary Global Issue

China's advances in green technology, military preparedness and economic growth were topics of discussion at the January meeting of the Contemporary Global Issues group. Inflation and the growing construction bubble were areas of concern. Growing consumer distress suggested that Chinese leaders will need to find more balance between internal growth and its present emphasis on exports.

Civility and violence in our society were also topics discussed as we met just after the tragedy in Tucson.

New briefing books called Great Decisions published by the Foreign Policy Association were distributed to members and the schedule for 2011 was established. The group meets the second Tuesday of each month except July, August and December at Bayview at 9:30 a.m.

Month	Topic	Facilitator
February	Horn of Africa	Chris Ehlers
March	Germany Ascendant	Karl Wallischeck
April	Crisis in the Caucasus	Merrilyn Decker
May	Global Governance	Judi Polizzotti
June	Financial Crisis	
September	Nonproliferation	Linda Suhr
October	Rebuilding Haiti	Bobbie Schlig
November	National Security	Claire Shumofsky

Merrilyn Decker, chairperson

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Public Policy

In 2009 there were more than 10 million low-income families struggling to meet their daily needs, nearly a quarter of a million more than the previous year. This concerns AAUW members. The US Census Bureau's survey of business owners shows the growth of women-owned businesses outpaced those owned by men. However, male-owned businesses generated significantly more revenue. Although women's unemployment rates are lower than men's, men continue to dominate the highest paying jobs.

AAUW applauds the Senate Foreign Relations bill for passing legislation in December to establish a five year strategy for identifying and reducing violence against women worldwide. The International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) will mandate cooperation and coordination among government agencies worldwide. However, the sex trafficking bill died in Congress. This bill that would enable the Dept. of Justice to provide grants to state and local officials to combat

child sex trafficking passed the House, but failed a vote in the Senate before the end of the 111th Congress.

AAUW celebrates the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”.

This just before the newsletter goes to press. AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, issued a statement extending AAUW’s deepest sympathies to the shooting victims and their families in Arizona. In closing, she said, “AAUW hopes for peace, justice, reason, and most of all healing for everyone who has been touched by this senseless violence.”

Jean Weicker

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CORRECTIONS TO MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY of 2010-2011

Evelyn Balamaci --- 55 Spicebush Ln

Rosemarie Barone --- CT Health of Southport, 30 Mill Hill Terrace, Southport 06890

Elisabeth Breslav --- e-mail correct but NO attachments

Barbara Buxton --- reports unreliable computer; prefers snail mail.

Cary Ericson --- cary24@sbcglobal.net

Claire Fulcher ---8111 E. Broadway #141, Tucson, AZ 85710
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Gretchen Hamilton --- gwhamilton@optonline.net

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Louise Hine --- #27 Southwick Ct N (on Wheelers Farm Rd) Milford
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Anna Kochan ---203-374-4838, E-mail: aekedan@aol.com

Ellen Kuroghlian ---Email: ekuroghlian@gmail.com

Marie Lambert --- 2100 Brandermill Parkway #214, Brandermill Woods Retirement Ctr
Midlothian, VA 23112 Phone: 804-379-7100

Virginia Loch --- No E-mail address.

Louise MacCormack --- E-mail: louisemaccormack@gmail.com

Johanna Malinowski --- 203-261-0857

Phyllis Mankowitz --- 92 Fieldcrest Drive

Elaine Matto ---203-924-0941, E-mail: ematto@aol.com

Mary Misevich --- E-mail: misevichm@sacredheart.edu

Marilyn Moore ---E-mail: mtmoore62@aol.com

Grace Packer --- deceased

Jeane Roberts --- E-mail: uniman11@sbcglobal.net (one not the letter l)

Betty Rubenstein --- Phone 203-334-6815

Ellen Schneider --- DUAL member

Claire Shumofsky --- 203-372-1700

Joyce Sweeney --- E-mail: joycesween@att.net

Nathalie Taranto --- E-mail: nstaranto@att.net

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New Members

Barbara Schlig
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Leisa Taylor
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Barbara Szepesi
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Rosemary Williams
115 Puritan Rd.
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203-243-2238 (day)
203-255-3961 (evening)
rosemarycwilliams@gmail.com

Bridgeport Branch Calendar- 2010-2011

February 8th - Contemporary Global Issues-Bayview

February 15th - Branch Board Meeting-Bayview

February 22nd - Morning Book Group-Watermark

March 2nd - Finance Committee Meeting-home of Gloria Francesconi

March 8th - Contemporary Global Issues-Bayview

March 15th (Tuesday)- Evening Book Group-home of Louise MacCormack

March 22nd - Morning Book Group-Watermark

March 24th - General Meeting-Topic to be Determined-Trumbull Library

April 12th - Branch Board Meeting-Bayview (subject to change)

April 12- Contemporary Global Issues-Bayview (subject to change)

April 14th - Evening Book Group-home of Gretchen Goethner

April 16th (Saturday) - General Meeting-Luncheon Program-Trumbull Library

April 26th -Morning Book Group-Watermark

May 4th - Finance Committee Meeting-home of Gloria Francesconi

May 10th - Contemporary Global Issues-Bayview

May 12th - Evening Book Group-home of Phyllis Mankowitz

May 19th - Annual Meeting-Location to be determined

May 24th -Morning Book Group-Watermark

June 7th – Branch Board Meeting-Bayview

June 9th - Evening Book Group-Dinner Meeting

June 14th - Contemporary Global Issues-Bayview

