



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.

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

President's Message

Even though we don't see those bright red and orange leaves of a typical New England foliage season, fall has arrived. It brings to mind going back to school, sitting in front of a fireplace, apples, pumpkins and Halloween.

This year's focus, "Team AAUW Bridgeport", celebrates our members working together and with our community partners to advance equity for all women and girls in education and economic security.

Our season began with a stimulating visit to the Discovery Museum, where we learned about the vast distances between our planets and our expanding universe. Our board members are publicizing, and organizing, a program on Immigration on October 11th at the Fairfield Library. Members are also attending the UN Tour with the CT and NY AAUW branches on the same day. In December, we are changing our holiday celebration to an afternoon tea in the 'Memorial Room' at the Fairfield Library at 1080 Old Post Road where we will share Lorraine Conway's experience teaching in China.

While women have gained ground in some areas, the number of women in congress has declined. We still have a long way to go. On October 5, and 6th we volunteered with the League of Women Voters at HCC to register students to vote.

In September, members kicked off the season with the morning and evening book groups and contemporary global issues meetings. We welcome our newest members and hope they can join us at the first networking gathering of the fall at Bloodroot in Bridgeport on November 3rd at 6:30.

With the 17th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, on November 15th at HCC in the events center at 12:30, our branch and the HCC Women's Center, HCC Men's Center, and GSA are sponsoring a Workshop on Campus Violence. We will have a panel of experts to address bullying, sexual assault, domestic violence and sexual harassment. Students and attendees will

then discuss personal experiences and thoughts on campus violence and how the college community can prevent it in the future. Congressman Jim Himes' staff will attend to address the pending legislation (Safe Campus Act). All AAUW members and friends are invited to attend.

We invite all members to join us in active participation on our team to take a role in these and future branch efforts. There is no job too small. Whatever your interest or expertise will be appreciated. You can contact Carole Fanslow or me to be part of our team.

Judi Polizzotti Co-President AAUW Bridgeport, (203) 268-2014, <judypoli@hotmail.com>

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Leonette Wishard Celebrates 109th Birthday with 150 Friends

Leonette Wishard, who joined our AAUW branch in 1945, celebrated her 109th birthday with a huge cake and candles at Watermark at 3030 Park on Tuesday afternoon October 11, 2011.

Residents and AAUW friends sang Happy Birthday and proclamations from Governor Dannel Malloy and Mayor Bill Finch were read to the oldest living resident of the state of Connecticut. Many cards and beautiful bouquets of flowers added to the special day.

Co-President Carole Fanslow spoke on behalf of branch members. Members Cary Ericson and Linda Vaughan helped plan the event with the staff of 3030. Happy Birthday Leonette!

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Bridgeport Branch AAUW
Invites You to a
Holiday Tea
Sunday, December 11, 2011
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield Center, 2nd Floor, Memorial Room

AAUW member, scholarship chairman, and
instructor/ teacher, Lorraine Conway
Shares experiences of having taught English
to teens in China, the 'TLC' way.

**No cost, suggested donation: package(s) of Pampers®, Huggies® or store brand disposable diapers for group donation to Mercy Learning Center and/ or hats, mittens, and scarves for students at Wilbur Cross Elementary School, Bridgeport, CT.*

RSVP by December 9th to Gretchen Goethner, (203) 254-8481 ggoethner@aol.com

Branch Programs, 2011-2012

SAVE THE DATE...PLAN TO ATTEND

December 11, 2011, Sunday, 2:00-4:00

Holiday Tea (*Bring a friend! Invite a new member to join the organization*)
Fairfield Public Library, Memorial Room, Ffld. Ctr. corner of Post and Old Post Road,
diagonally across from the Community theater. (or *GPS formal address: 1080 Old Post Rd.*)
Lorraine Conway, AAUW Bridgeport branch scholarship chairman, shares her personal
experiences of "T.L.C., Teaching in China".
*No cost but suggested donation: package(s) of Pampers®, Huggies® or store brand
disposable diapers for club donation to Mercy Learning Center or hats, mittens, scarves*

March 1, 2012, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
'50/50 by 2020'

Patricia Russo, president of the Women's Campaign School at Yale will tell us about the
exciting work of the School in directing women toward achieving the goal of equal
representation on our elected governments.

April 28, 2012, Saturday, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Trumbull Library
TBA

May 10, 2012, Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Annual Fundraiser
Square One Theater, Stratford

"Love, Loss and What I Wore". "The performance is an intimate collection of stories by
Nora and Delia Ephron based on the best-selling book by Ilene Beckerman, as well as on the
recollection of the Ephrons' friends. Like the popular book, the play uses clothing and
accessories and the memories they trigger to tell funny and often poignant stories that all women
can relate to". . . . "Funny, powerful, sweet and saucy! This is an evening that goes directly to the
heart." - Liz Smith, Syndicated Columnist

Gretchen Goethner, VP Program, (203) 254-8481, ggoethner@aol.com

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Contemporary Global Issues

The next meeting of the Contemporary Global Issues discussion group will be Tuesday
November 8, 2011 at Bayview. Several of our members chose to travel in October; therefore the
planned meeting on Oct. 11th was canceled. (See AAUW President's report of the United
Nations visit/tour elsewhere in this edition).

The November topic of discussion will be *Rebuilding Haiti* with Bobbie Schlig as the facilitator.

Claire Shumofsky will be the facilitator on December 13, 2011 on the topic of *National Security*.
Contemporary Global Issues meets the morning on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.
at Bayview. Recently, and with much success, we have referenced the Great Decisions briefing

book published by the Foreign Policy Association for background material. We will order the 2012 books in December.

Perhaps you will join this opinionated, lively, and always mannered group during the upcoming year – 2012 - and add your name to our December order form. Contact Merrilyn Decker, (203) 268-5013, <merdeck@aol.com> for questions, details, or more information. All AAUW members – existing, new, and future – are invited!

Merrilyn Decker, (203) 268-5013, <merdeck@aol.com>

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PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

The Supreme Court will likely take up the Health Care Law, with its decision coming next summer. AAUW, as an organization, believes everyone is entitled to high quality, affordable and easily accessible health care. In addition, AAUW takes the stance, that even if imperfect, the Affordable Care Act, with its inherent reforms, will improve the health of American people. Many American citizens face the choice of reasonable health care or job retention; with many choosing the latter because of unpaid sick days.

- Urge your representative to keep American families healthy and financially secure, by co-sponsoring the Healthy Families Act.
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- Tell Congress it’s time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

F.B.I. statistics underestimate the number of rapes across the United States by the thousands. The F.B.I.’s definition of rape “the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly against her will” has been criticized by women’s organizations for decades. AAUW believes that sexual violence is a pervasive social problem across the world, and needs to be treated with more sensitivity while increasing the accuracy of its reporting.

Jim Himes, U.S. Congress 4th District

211 State Street, 2nd Floor
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Phone: (866) 453-0028
Fax: (203) 333-6655

Hours: M - F 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

<http://himes.house.gov/content/contact-me>

Richard Blumenthal

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Jean Weicker, (203) 261-0691, <j.weicker@charter.net>

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Networking

Networking is a group of new and not so new members who get together to network ideas and opportunities for working in the community. It is an opportunity for new members to learn about the organization and meet some of our more experienced members.

From our last gathering at my home in August, we discussed having a dinner gathering in the fall. It will be held at **Bloodroot 85 Ferris St. Bridgeport at 6:30 pm on Thursday November 3rd.**

It will be a great opportunity for our newest members to meet with the networking group. Also, we could think about and discuss how we could best meet member's needs in the future. How do we see the networking group evolving over time?

Bloodroot is a change for us. It has been called by the NY Times a "Salon for Activists". They call themselves a feminist vegetarian restaurant. But, I suggest you go on the website and find out more about it. <http://www.bloodroot.com/index.htm>

Judi Polizzotti, Co-President AAUW Bridgeport, (203) 268-2014, <judypoli@hotmail.com>

AAUW New York Connecticut

United Nations Day

On Tuesday October 11th, AAUW New York and Connecticut members joined in a day at the UN. Briefings were on “Women and Building a Sustainable Economy”, a discussion with 34 Million Friends of UNFPA’s Jane Roberts and “When Stars Fall to Earth’s” author Rebecca Tinsley.

A UN staff member presented the sustainable economic discussion by suggesting that the upcoming Rio + 20 conference on the environment in June of 2012 has three main pillars: environmental, social, and economic. One of the issues to be discussed at the conference will be desertification and its effects on the people of Africa.

The primary objective of the conference, will be to implement the agenda 21 (platform for action) formed at the previous conference, and to elevate the status of sustainable development on the world stage.

The focus of the plan will be the “green economy” which is viewed as a means to “jump start the global recession”. In this process, women have a primary role. Indeed, it was suggested that “sustainability is about women” who will be the agents of change.

Some of the impacts on the environment are involved with transportation, mining, chemicals, consumption and production patterns and genetically engineered foods.

In her presentation on reproductive rights Jane Roberts suggests that “reproductive health is critical to the world’s women. Today women in developing countries are often dying in childbirth, facing female genital mutilation or fistulas following childbirth”. You can visit Jane at 34millionfriends.org.

In 1992, then President Bush withdrew 34 million dollars in funding from the UNFPA (UN Population Fund). Since then Jane has raised 4.2 million, one dollar at a time, from people across the country to support worldwide family planning. In 1994, the UN declared that “family planning is a human right”.

Jane shared a statistic that in 1960 the world population was at approximately 3 billion people. By the end of October, we will be over 7 billion.

In a quote by Dr. Babtunde Ostimihin, head of UNFPA , “If every girl today could stay in school, have the number of children she desires, and live free from gender-based violence and discrimination, we would see an end to child marriage, improved health for children and families, and women taking their rightful place in society”.

“When Stars Fall to Earth” was written by Rebecca Tinsley based on the stories of the genocide survivors she met as a journalist/human rights activist in Darfur. From this experience, Rebecca has started a non-profit, you can visit at network4Africa.org, that helps survivors of war and genocide rebuild their lives.

Rebecca stated that “For every act of genocide there is an act of beauty”. One woman Rebecca met in Rwanda survived her family being murdered only to adopt three children who had been orphaned. When Rebecca asked her “why did she make her life more difficult by taking in these children” she answered, “It’s the right thing to do”.

Reflecting on the day, I was struck by how sustainable development, women’s rights and the global economy converge. The world’s women are at ground level facing the impacts of climate change, war and economic inequality. They know instinctively the need for clean water, irrigation, infrastructure for transportation, and clean sustainable energy because it affects their families.

Women entrepreneurs developing solutions to global issues will improve the economy by creating the next generation of green jobs. We don’t need more apps on our cell phones, we need to produce products that solve problems and sustain our resources for future generations.

Judi Polizzotti, Co-President, AAUW Bridgeport, (203) 268-2014, <judypoli@hotmail.com>

Membership Directory, Updates as of October 2011

New members:

Susan Flemming	39 Newton Lane Trumbull, CT 06611	203-268-9024 slflemming@aol.com
Sara Pflueger	233 Mayfield Drive Trumbull, CT 06611	203-246-2607 sapflueger@earthlink.net
Elinor Whitaker	72 Tuckahoe Lane Fairfield, CT 06824	203-384-8463 eewhitaker@snet.net

Transfer from member-at-large

Diane Schwartz	151 Mayfield Dr. Trumbull, CT 06611	203-452-0333 steacher151@aol.com
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Address and phone corrections:

Laurel Anderson	203-913-2811
Velma Charlesworth	203-870-4785
Leisa Taylor	203-292-3679

Evelyn Balamaci	55 Spicebush Lane Milford, CT 06461	
Barbara Buxton	8E9 Watermark 3030 Park Ave Bridgeport, CT 06604	203-373-6527
Claire Fulcher	8111 E. Broadway Tucson, AZ 85710	520-885-2485
Nathalie Taranto	115A Cedar Hill Road Easton, CT 06612	

Email updates:

Christine Bonosky	cbonosky@gmail.com	203-261-1241
Cary Ericson	cary24@sbcglobal.net	
Gretchen Hamilton	gretchenwhamilton@yahoo.com	
Ellen Kuroghlian	ekuroghlian@gmail.com	
Virginia Loch	<i>(please note correct spelling of name)</i> no Email	
Marilyn Moore	mtmoore62@aol.com	
Linda Suhr	lindasuhr64@charter.net	
Joyce Sweeney	joycesween@att.net	
Nathalie Taranto	nstaranto@att.net	
Mary Ann Worthington	mawshop@att.net	

Sylvia Dahl, Membership Treasurer, (203) 374-6526, <sylviadahl@sbcglobal.net>

Bridgeport Branch Calendar, 2011 – 2012

- November 2nd – Finance Committee – 16 Plymouth Ave. Trumbull, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- November 3rd – Networking Dinner – Bloodroot, 6:30 p.m. *Bring friends & new members!*
- November 3rd - Evening Book Group – Watermark, 7:30 p.m. *RSVP Gloria Manning, 203-372-8922*
- November 8th - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview, 9:30 a.m.
- November 15th - Campus Violence Workshop, HCC events cntr., w. Jim Himes' aides 12:30 p.m.
- November 29th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
- December 6th – Board Meeting – Bayview 9:30 a.m.
- December 11th – Holiday Tea: Ffld. Library, Memorial Rm., “Teaching in China”, 2:00 -4:00
- January 4th – Finance Committee – 16 Plymouth Ave. Trumbull, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- January 24th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
- February 7th - Evening Book Group – 7:30 pm, home of Loiuise MacCormack, *RSVP 203-259-0625.*
- February 21st –Board Meeting – Unity Church of Christ, 364 White Plains Rd. Trum. 9:30 a.m.
- February 28th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
- March 1st – Branch Program, ‘50/50 by 2020’, 7:00 p.m.
- March 6th - Evening Book Group – home of Gretchen Goethner, 7:30 p.m., *RSVP 203-254-8481*
- March 7th - Finance Committee – 16 Plymouth Ave. Trumbull, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- March 27th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
- April 3rd - Evening Book Group – home of Claire Shumofsky, 7:30 p.m., *RSVP 203-372-1700*
- April 17th –Board Meeting - Unity Church of Christ, 364 White Plains Rd. Trum. 9:30 a.m.
- April 24th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
- April 28th – Branch Program, topic TBA, Trumbull Public Library, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- May 1st - Evening Book Group – home of Judi Polizzotti, 7:30 p.m., *RSVP 203-268-2014*
- May 2nd - Finance Committee – 16 Plymouth Ave. Trumbull, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- May 10th – Annual Fundraiser – Square One Theater, Stratford, 7:00 p.m.
- May 22th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
- May 31 – Annual Meeting- Location TBA
- June 5th - Evening Book Group – planning meeting, location TBA

Christine Bonosky, Newsletter Co-Editor, (203) 261-1241, cbonosky@gmail.com

