



DAWN BREAKER

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
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AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

AAUW Member Wins Nobel Prize

Carol Greider Shares

Prestigious Award for Physiology or Medicine

AAUW celebrates Carol Greider, AAUW member-at-large and winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with her two colleagues, Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack Szostak.

Greider has been a member of AAUW since 2002. Greider, Blackburn, and Szostak “discovered that telomeres are made up of simple, repeating blocks of DNA building blocks and are found in all organisms,” according to a Johns Hopkins University announcement. Understanding this biological process has paved the way to deeper knowledge of cancer and cellular aging.

“AAUW has a long history of supporting women in the sciences, and we are thrilled to count another Nobel Prize winner among our ranks,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. In 1920, AAUW awarded two-time Nobel Prize recipient Marie Curie a grant to assist with her groundbreaking research on radium. AAUW member Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, was nominated for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his work supporting education for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Greider, who holds a doctorate in molecular biology from the University of California, Berkeley, currently works as the Daniel Nathans Professor and Director of Molecular Biology and Genetics at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Basic Biomedical Sciences.

“Greider and Blackburn have shown that women can break through barriers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,” said AAUW President Carolyn H. Garfein. “Their accomplishment serves as an excellent example of women making valuable contributions and the need that exists for supporting and encouraging great female minds, as AAUW does with our fellowships, grants, and community of successful women.”

In 2009 a record five women were awarded Nobel Prizes. Prior to this year, only 35 women had ever received the

honor. Greider and Blackburn were the first two women to simultaneously win the prize in medicine.

The three other 2009 female laureates include Ada Yonath, who is sharing the Nobel Prize in chemistry; Herta Mueller, who won the prize in literature; and Elinor Ostrom, who is sharing the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. Ostrom is the first woman to win the economics prize.

Please also visit <http://blog-aauw.org/2009/10/12/aauw-member-awarded-nobel-prize/>.

President’s Message

by Charmin Goehring-Fox
charminme@yahoo.com

Could somebody please help me find Fall? I seem to have misplaced it! With the cold weather, early snowflakes, and Christmas displays in the store, it seems as if we went from summer directly to the holidays! Despite that, we managed to have a memorable week in October with AAUW Public Policy Director Lisa Maatz visiting nearly the entire state (I still can’t figure out how she missed the direction to cut down south from Bangor to the Rockland area and ended up near Calais! So much for the GPS!).

Lisa began her visit in Waterville, at a reception following the fall board meeting. After enjoying a night at Joan Sanzenbacher’s home, she drove up to Presque Isle for a branch reception and the first Breakfast of Champions. Then she was off to Orono to meet branch members there and to participate in the second Breakfast. After a long drive to Portland, Lisa met Sarah Standiford, Executive Director of the Maine Women’s Lobby; Beth Shulman, a policy expert focusing on the American workplace and speaker at the Portland Breakfast; Anna Melbin, Chair of the Maine Women’s Policy Center; and me for dinner in the Old Port. After the Portland Breakfast the next morning, Lisa and Sarah headed up to Augusta to tape a State-of-the-State program. Lisa then spent a couple of days (see pg. 2)



sightseeing before heading back to Washington to prepare for a trip to Taiwan!

I was extremely pleased to hear that each of the Breakfasts was well attended – not only by the general public, but by AAUW members, too. Our collaboration with the Maine Women’s Lobby/Maine Women’s Policy Center garnered us positive press. I have already been contacted by Congresswoman Chellie Pingree’s office about a meeting. I hope that we can continue to be active in supporting the MWL/MWPC as their mission so closely mirrors our own.

I am already looking forward to our state convention in May, hosted by the Penobscot Valley branch. I hope each one of you will make plans to gather with us as we reaffirm our mission and goals, enjoy our friendships, and honor those within our organization. Look for more information elsewhere in this and the next *Dawn Breaker*.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission of education and equity for women and girls! Happy Holidays!

Board Briefs

Our fall board meeting was held on October 4, 2009 in Waterville at Joan Sanzenbacher’s home. We heard updates on the state convention in May, which will be hosted by the Penobscot Valley branch and learned about a new AAUW “program in a box” on Title IX available for branches and states to use. Bets talked about her involvement, on our behalf, with WLAC, now known as the Coalition for Maine Women. The Keep Maine Connected campaign was discussed, and it was agreed that all Maine AAUW leaders should begin the effort by making a donation. These funds help to balance our budget so that we afford to continue sending our leaders to AAUW events out-of-state to represent all Maine members.

Following our meeting, we had a lovely afternoon with AAUW’s dynamic Public Policy Director, Lisa Maatz. Lisa spent a week in Maine, traveling to speak at three Breakfast of Champions events, sponsored by the Maine Women’s Policy Center and AAUW.

Our next board meeting will be March 6, 2010 (bad weather date-March 13) at Bets Brown’s home (109 Vassalboro Road, South China - see Mapquest for directions or call Bets at 445-4967). All members are invited and encouraged to attend. We welcome and value **YOUR** input to **YOUR** organization! Call Charmen Goehring-Fox for more information-756-0406.

“KEEP MAINE CONNECTED” CAMPAIGN

AAUW Maine’s Keep Maine Connected Campaign has been successfully launched. Reaching the goal of raising \$2,000 will make it possible for AAUW Maine to balance the budget for the year. The AAUW Maine state board voted to run this campaign again in 2009-2010 to help with decreases in income from fewer membership dues, this campaign has made possible continuation of services by AAUW Maine. Please mail donations to state treasurer Marilyn Leimbach (9 Wilson Park, Waterville, ME 04901).

SAVE THE DATE

Friday May 14 and Saturday May 15, 2010
Wells Conference Ctr., Univ. of Maine., Orono

The state convention is to be hosted by the Penobscot Valley Branch. Sharon Barker and Joan Sanzenbacher are planning the program to bring us up to date on national and state issues. One session will cover Title IX, which is immensely important to young girls and women. It also continues to be under attack by those who dismiss Title IX as a law that takes athletic opportunities away from young men and boys and do not credit it with opening opportunities in many areas for young girls and women.

On Friday, we hope to have tour of either the Page Farm or Hudson Museum. The evening will involve a social house, dinner, and presentation of the Achievement Citation Award

Saturday’s early morning activities will be followed by breakfast, the business meeting, the program, luncheon, program, and basket drawing.

A USEFUL WEBSITE

One of the members of the Coalition for Maine Women, along with AAUW Maine, is Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. See <http://www.ppnne.org>.

Their goal is to ensure that every individual has the information, services, and freedom to make healthy, responsible decisions about sex, sexuality, and parenthood.

ACHIEVEMENT CITATION AWARD

THE AFGHAN SCHOLARS INITIATIVE: PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION <http://www.afghanscholars.org/>

The Afghan Scholars Initiative (ASI) creates partnerships between promising Afghan students and college-prep boarding schools in the United States. Their goal is to ensure that these students receive scholarships for six years of education in the United States, starting with two years of high school and continuing through college.

By bridging cultural and financial divides, ASI gives both Afghan and American students the cross-cultural experience and understanding necessary to become a new generation of social, cultural, and political leaders.

This program was begun by Colby graduates Qiamuddin Amiry, from Afghanistan, and John Campbell, from the U.S. They have been careful to include female students in the program every year. This important program could definitely use your support. Check the website to find out how to give that support.



The Choice Coalition of Maine

AAUW Maine is a member of the Choice Coalition of Maine, which is organizing a rally against including a Stupak-like amendment from the health bill in front of Congress. When the House passed a historic health care reform bill, it also adopted the Stupak amendment, a dangerous piece of legislation that would ban abortion from private and public insurance plans for millions of American women. Fortunately, the fight for women’s health didn’t end in the House, and now focus is placed on the Senate.

The Senate bill does not include language similar to the Stupak ban. Now we need the Senate’s strong support to defeat any and all amendments to the Senate bill that would impose additional restrictions on women’s access to reproductive health care.

On December 2nd, a National Lobby Day will be held in Washington DC with coalition partners to protest the Stupak amendment. Contact Planned Parenthood of Northern New England if you want to attend this rally (www.ppnne.org). Otherwise, please write your Senators to indicate your support of women’s reproductive freedom.

Nomination forms and instructions for the Achievement Citation Award were sent to the Branches in late October 2009. By the time you receive this you should have had the discussion with your Branch about whom to nominate. Then your New Year’s Resolution will be to get that pesky nomination to me by the firm deadline: January 31, 2010. You can do it, yes you can!

Kristin Sweeney
Chair, Achievement Citation Award Committee

And you can always add the following if you need filler:

The basic requirements include:

- The nominee should be a woman in Maine who has made a distinctive contribution in some AAUW field of interest or study (service to state, to education, to arts, or to humanity, for example).
- The nominee should have a valid connection with the state.
- The nominee should exhibit achievement over and above job-related activities.
- The nominee should be a “pioneer” in her area.

Additional considerations include:

- The nominee does **not** have to be a member of AAUW and does **not** have to be an “unsung” heroine.
- The achievement does **not** have to be employment related.
- Other qualifications may be non-traditional fields and significant contribution to community/region/state, women’s issues, or a particular field.

Choice & Chocolate: A Celebration of the 37th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Wednesday, January 20th, 2010, 6:30pm
Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center
700 Mount Hope Avenue, Suite 420, Bangor, Maine

Attend Choice & Chocolate to help us celebrate and recognize the women and men who worked tirelessly to fight for a woman’s right to choose and won with the Roe v. Wade landmark Supreme Court decision in 1973.

Indulge in delicious chocolate desserts and an amazing program. Join them to reunite, re-energize, and renew our commitment to women’s reproductive rights.

RSVP is required, please call 207-947-5337 x114 or email educate@mabelwadsworth.org

EF/LAF INFORMATION: NOTE TO BRANCHES

by Susan Nolan Landry, EF/LAF Liaison,
Susan_Landry@umit.maine.edu

The basic process for making branch gifts has not changed, but should now be a little easier. You are still encouraged to use the Contribution Report Form, but now there is no need to have multiple forms to accommodate different entities because all donations can be included on one form. You can get the new, easier-to-use form and instruction sheet at www.aauw.org/member_center/forms/contribution_report.cfm. Contributions should still be mailed to AAUW, P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045. Some officers prefer to complete the process online by logging into the Member Services Database through the online Member Center, and they will continue to be able to do so. All donations will be acknowledged for tax purposes.

Please make your contributions directly to AAUW—whether by mail or electronically—rather than sending them to me. However, **DO SEND ME A COPY (OR JUST AN EMAIL OR A NOTE)** with the information about your gifts; this will allow me to check the report I receive from Washington, as well as to recognize everyone in our own annual report.

Incidentally, AAUW's recognition for "the most generous" branches and states has been expanded. Not only will those most generous to LAF and the Educational Opportunities Fund receive national recognition, but also AAUW will now recognize the branches and states most generous to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, to the Public Policy Fund, and to the Leadership Programs Fund. You can see an example of this recognition in our most recent convention literature and in the 2009 AAUW Annual Report.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

June 3-5, 2010
University of Maryland

Help send students to this inspiring leadership event.
For more information, visit www.nccwsl.org.

"We've chosen the path to equality, don't let them turn us around."

—Geraldine Ferraro

(The first woman to be nominated as Vice President of the United States)

AAUW Grant Programs – Upcoming Deadlines

<http://www.aauw.org/about/deadlines.cfm>

Career Development Grants: These support women who hold a bachelor's degree and who are preparing to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the work force. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. -- December 15

Selected Professions Fellowships: Awarded to women who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who intend to pursue a full-time course of study (during the fellowship year) in designated degree programs where women's participation traditionally has been low. --- January 10

Community Action Grants: These provide seed money to individual women, AAUW branches, and AAUW state organizations, as well as to local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. --- January 15

COALITION FOR MAINE WOMEN

by Bets Brown, wilbro@fairpoint.net

AAUW Maine is a member of the Coalition for Maine Women, formerly known as the Women's Leadership Action Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of 35 or more groups interested in protecting women's rights, health, and welfare in Maine. Along with adopting its new name, the Coalition has worked diligently this fall to re-examine its priorities and mission, to develop a prioritized legislative agenda, to determine best ways to introduce the Coalition to the legislature, and to develop effective means of communication.

On the federal level, the Coalition is planning to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which is also a key priority for AAUW. Reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is also a priority for this year.

Considerable emphasis will be spent on encouraging the Maine legislature to pass a bill that provides paid sick days for employees and families. Imagine being a single parent, who are usually women, with sick children and not being able to stay home to be with them. The Coalition also supports the bill to remove DECA (toxic brominated flame retardants) from pallets that bring food to Maine. DECA has been found in women's breast milk.

I have been sending notices of this work to your communications officers. Let me know if you are not receiving them. At times, you will be asked to help support these matters. Please take the time to write letters or make phone calls.

Put AAUW Resources into Action

Want more information on an important issue affecting women and girls? Looking for background information on current legislation or talking point on an equity issue? Need additional advocacy resources and ideas for action? Look no further than AAUW's issues pages and recently-updated position papers (http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm).

Advocacy isn't just about lending your name to an issue, or even speaking up on Capital Hill (in Washington D.C. or Augusta). Advocacy is also about AAUW members and all citizens concerned with equity being knowledgeable and aware of the current status of important issues.

That's why AAUW provides resource pages that offer the freshest information, advocacy resources, and most effective avenues for action on issues related to our current public policy priorities. The national office has excitedly announced that AAUW's position papers recently have been updated and all are available online (see website above). They covers many issues related to economic security, education, Title IX, and civil rights.

In addition, there are many ways to put the position papers into action including:

- **inviting the book club to read and discuss a position paper,
- **focusing on a position paper at a branch meeting,
- **handing out the position papers at branch events,
- **meeting with a public official to discuss one of these position papers or
- ** forwarding a position paper to friends to share these resources and spread the word.

THE BRANCHES

Waterville Branch (from Bets Brown)

The Waterville Branch has had a successful fall. In October, our Future Focus Program, a career day for 300 8th-grade girls, was a huge success. The girls had a great day learning about different career possibilities. The >55 women panelists enjoyed meeting with the girls and sharing their enthusiasm for their jobs. Waterville Branch's Charlie Hartman was a terrific organizer of the event once again.

At our November meeting, we heard from Nancy Fritz, Director of Homeless Initiatives in Maine. She serves as the Governor's primary liaison on homeless issues and is a member of his Cabinet. Her position is funded by the Maine State Housing Authority, where she also serves as Director of the Homeless Initiatives Department. Fritz outlined the problems of homelessness in Maine. For instance, most

families that come to homeless shelters are headed by single mothers. Of the individuals that come to shelters, one quarter of them are women. In Maine, over 200 unaccompanied minors stayed in homeless shelters last year. Fritz encouraged people to contribute to shelters, to encourage federal and state legislators to support funding to help the homeless and improved mental health support, to volunteer at food kitchens, and to look for ways to provide more permanent housing for those who are on the streets.

We look forward to our December auction, with our auctioneer extraordinaire, Betty-Jane Meader. This event is a delightful, fun-filled time when we raise funds for the Educational Foundation (including its Legal Advocacy Fund).

Hancock County Branch (from Louise Storer)

The Hancock County Branch began its year with a pot-luck for returning and potential new members at an ocean-front summer home on Hancock Point. We are experimenting this fall with daytime meetings (instead of our usual evenings) to see if the time change encourages our current members to attend more often and if it makes our meetings more attractive to those who might be interested in joining.

In October, we were guided in a tour of the homestead of pioneering ornithologist Cordelia Stanwood who was an Ellsworth native. The house and much of the land around it has been maintained in much the same condition as when she lived there in the early part of the 20th century. The land is a wildlife sanctuary with walking trails.

In November, we gathered at Mount Desert Island Hospital to hear a presentation on the early detection of breast cancer. The director of the program has received scholarships from our branch as she makes her way toward her B. A.

Our December meeting has, for several years, been a pot-luck at which we collect gifts for the residents of the local homeless shelter or those in the domestic violence shelter. Last year, we extended our seasonal giving to include money for the food-pantry. We have also been giving gift certificates for gasoline and groceries for the students at the local University Center who might be forced by financial issues to drop out of school.

Plans for the spring include a joint program with BPW regarding ways to recognize and counter bias in hiring and a joint program with the Blue Hill Historical Society.

Penobscot Valley Branch (from Janet Givens)

At the October meeting of the Penobscot Valley Branch, Lisa Maatz, the dynamic public policy director of AAUW shared her experiences working for AAUW on Capitol Hill. She urged us to become involved in the AAUW agenda by contacting our senators and representatives regularly. Janet Givens, past president of AAUW of Maine, introduced Lisa at the Bangor Breakfast of Champions which was attended by eight branch members.

In November, the branch heard five students who had participated in the successful Maine New Leadership program held this summer at the University of Maine. Mary Cathcart, branch university rep, was a co-director. They described aspects of the program that prepared them to be the next generation of women leaders.

Advance planning is being done for the annual Book Sale on April 10, 2010 and the AAUW of Maine convention on May 14 and 15, 2010. Janet Givens

Houlton Branch (from Alison Bossie)

In October we joined with Caribou and Presque Isle to hear Lisa Maatz speak. This month we had a local Rotary Youth International Scholar speak about his summer in Spain. In December we will continue our holiday luncheon and our donation for healthy snacks for the after school program. Then we break until March while members travel and hunker down for the winter.

Bath-Brunswick Branch (from Debra Schall)

In October, we are pleased to welcomed back Shelley Deane, Assistant Professor of Government at Bowdoin College, who spoke to us on *New Perspectives After a Year in the Middle East*. Shelley received her Bachelor's degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Manchester, UK, her Master's in International Relations from the University of Warwick, UK, and her Ph.D from the Department of Government at the London School of Economics. Her teaching and research fields include International Relations, Comparative Politics, Middle East Politics, Irish Politics, Political Violence, Factionalism, Ethnic Conflicts, Civil wars, Peace Processes, Security Studies, Bargaining, and Negotiation.

Our knitting circle holds meetings in members homes. They are making knitted good to send to the group Afghans for Afghans.

Home to Home is still going strong. Home to Home is a center for the safe exchange of children of divorced families who transfer for visitation from one parent to the other as ordered by the court. It was started in 1996 by a group of AAUW members and leaders of other community organizations concerned about the safety of

children. Under the leadership of AAUW member Barbara Norton, Home to Home became a United Way Agency. It also receives funding from the State, and private donations.

Mid-Coast Branch (from Judy Dinmore)

We are looking forward to our upcoming programs. They are: *Women in Business in Maine* by speaker, Ronna Lugosch, owner of Pea Pod Jewelry, Round Pond Maine scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2010; and *Bugs of the Sea: a perspective on the local lobstering trade and its peril* by speaker, Ryan Post, director of Mainebuggin.com, scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2010.

Attendees were fascinated by our Maine Literary Festival, *An Evening Exploring the Literature of New Voices in America Reflecting Cross-Cultural Experience* that took place on Saturday, November 7, 2009 in the Camden Opera House. Besides the stimulating discussions of the authors there were photos of new immigrants in Maine, music and delicious food. The next event in the series, **A Conversation with Lisa See**, is scheduled for Tuesday April 13th. Lisa See is the critically-acclaimed author of the international bestseller, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* (2005). Ms. See's new novel, *Shanghai Girls*, is about two sisters, Pearl and May, who leave Shanghai in 1937 and go to Los Angeles in arranged marriages. It is a story of sisters. Also see www.maineliteraryfestival.com/.

In the Spring a scholarship in memory of our former member and past president, Bridget Paddock, will be awarded to a graduating senior from Rockland High School.

Your AAUW Maine Officers & Committee Chairs

President - Charlene Goehring-Fox
President - elect - no candidate - please volunteer
Program VP - Joan Sanzenbacher
Member VP 1 year - no candidate - please volunteer
Corresponding Secretary - Lynda DeHaan
Recording Secretary - Mary Ireland
Treasurer - Marilyn Leimbach
Nominating Committee - Betsy Eggleston, Pat Rathbun
Educational Foundation - Sue Landry
Public Policy - Bets Brown
Historian - Mary Ireland
College/University Relations - Betty-Jane Meader
Webmaster - Marilyn Leimbach

"A woman is like a tea bag - you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water."

--Eleanor Roosevelt

BETS BROWN

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CALENDAR 2009-2010

2009

Dec 11 EF/LAF Contributions due, with copy to Susan Landry

2010

Jan 31 Deadline for Achievement Citation Award Nominees

Mar 6 AAUW Maine Spring Board Meeting

Mar 15 Dawn Breaker deadline

May 14-15 AAUW Maine State Convention in Orono.

July 1 FY09 Branch Dues Reports Due

July AAUW Maine Summer Board Meeting. Location and time to be determined.

Aug 15 Dawn Breaker deadline