



DAWN BREAKER
THE NEWSLETTER OF
AAUW MAINE
SPRING 2009/10
VOLUME 57, NUMBER 3



AAUW MAINE CONVENTION
MAY 13-14, 2010

The Penoscot Branch and VP for Programs Joan Sanzenbacher have led a team of people to plan an outstanding 2010 AAUW Maine Convention for you. Please plan to attend on March 14 and 15. All the details can be found on pages 2 and 3.

HONORING OUR OWN

Every year at our state convention, we have the chance to celebrate those members in our branches that go above and beyond. These women help keep our mission in focus, work behind the scenes to ensure the success of the branch, and give of their time and energy repeatedly. Each branch has the opportunity to nominate one or two members who will then be honored at our convention during Friday evening's festivities. Each branch board should send their nominations, along with a paragraph or two about the member(s) and why she is being honored, to Charmin Goehring-Fox at 25 Ledgewood Drive, Hollis Center, ME 04042 or to charminme@yahoo.com.

KEEPING OUR
CANADA-MAINE CONNECTION ALIVE

All members of AAUW Maine have been invited to attend the Canada Federation of University Women-Atlantic Region's annual conference on October 1-2, 2010. The theme is "Women of Diversity-Celebrating Our Culture, Embracing Our Bonds." It will be held in beautiful Bouctouche, New Brunswick. There will be several noteworthy speakers, including Dr. Marilyn Trenholme-Counsell, former Lt. Governor of New Brunswick. We were fortunate to have several members from their group attend our convention last year in Presque Isle and many expressed the desire to continue our connection with our Canadian sisters. If you are interested in more information, email Charmin (charminme@yahoo.com) and she will send the official flyer to you.

LILLY LEDETTER IS COMING TO MAINE

Tuesday, March 30, 2010 --
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Senator Inn, Augusta

Featuring special video
welcome to guests from
First Lady Michelle Obama



AAUW Maine members are invited. The Maine Women's Policy Center and the WAGE Project are hosting an evening reception with Lilly Ledbetter, the plaintiff in the employment discrimination case *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* and the woman for whom the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is named. On the eve of Maine's Equal Pay Day, AAUW Maine members are invited to join in celebrating the ongoing transformation of the American workplace through Lilly's historic advocacy and to spotlight opportunities for further action that will bring workplaces up to date with the needs of today's families.

The event is free, but **R.S.V.P. is required**. Contact Bonnie Buckmore at the Maine Women's Policy Center, 207.622.0851, ext. 22, or info@mainewomen.org.

BRANCH ROSTERS OF OFFICERS

Each spring, branches elect new officers and develop new rosters for the coming year. When your branch has elected its new officers for 2010/11, be sure to send the listing to Corresponding Secretary Linda DeHaan, who prepares the state directories for AAUW Maine. You can send the information to her at ldehaan@suscom-maine.edu.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS?

The AAUW staff in Washington has worked hard to provide you with benefits for belonging to AAUW and for sharing your purchasing power with AAUW. At this website (www.aauw.org/About/join/value/discounts.cfm), you will learn about benefits related to finances, shopping, insurance, books and publications, travel, medical information, and professional development.



REGISTRATION FORM – AAUW-ME 2010 Convention, May 14-15, Orono, ME

Note: A map of the Orono Campus will be sent to you when you register. You will also receive a Parking Permit for both May 14 and 15. If you provide your email address on your registration form, the two documents will be emailed to you instead.

This year’s theme: “Equity Is Still an Issue”

Name: _____

Address: _____

Branch Name: _____

E-mail and Phone: _____

Friday Afternoon Guided Tour: Hudson Museum at the Collins Center for the Arts starting at 3:45 PM (optional and no charge, but we would like a count) _____ yes _____ no

Saturday morning Guided Tour: Orono Bog Boardwalk starting at 6:30 AM (optional and no charge, but we would like a count) _____ yes _____ no

CHOOSE ONE

- 1) Friday Only (make dinner selections below) \$35.00 _____
(includes registration fee, cash bar, Friday dinner, and evening program – make choice for dinner below)
- 2) Saturday Only (includes registration fee, breakfast buffet and lunch) \$40.00 _____
- 3) Both Days \$65.00 _____
(includes registration fee and all meals – make choice for dinner below)

***Fri. Dinner Meal choice (please circle one):** Stuffed Chicken Breast, Grilled Salmon, or Pasta Primavera

Total Enclosed _____

Do you have special needs? (Physical or dietary) _____

Please mail registration by **Tuesday, April 27, 2010** to Phyllis Borns, 145 Stillwater Avenue, Orono, ME 04473.

Make checks payable to “AAUW.” Confirmation with parking permit and map of campus will be emailed if email is provided.)

FYI: Black Bear Inn in Orono, a Best Western Hotel, is just off I-95’s Exit 193. BBI is two miles from Long Rd. entrance to campus. Note: a block of 20 rooms (@\$89.95, single or double) is reserved for AAUW participants until **Sunday, April 25.**

If you prefer to stay elsewhere in the greater Bangor area, there are many hotels listed on the web. Google: hotels – Bangor Maine.

Are you interested in “home hospitality” (staying in local member’s home)? If so, contact Phyllis Borns at 866-4193 to discuss option further – please do so immediately, prior to sending in registration. (Small donation to host branch is suggested in lieu of hotel costs.)



AAUW MAINE STATE CONVENTION

May 14-15, 2010

Equity is Still an Issue!

Wells Conference Center, University of Maine
College Avenue, Orono, ME 04469

On May 14-15, 2010, Penobscot Valley branch will welcome AAUW members from around Maine for the annual State Convention to be held in Orono. Our theme for this year's convention is **Equity is Still an Issue!**

Friday evening's guest speaker is national AAUW Board of Directors member Betsy McDowell from Oregon. Branch awards will also be presented.

Saturday morning's program opens with Janet Judge, an attorney from Portland specializing in sports law, who will deliver our keynote and chair a three-member panel on Title IX. Panelists from the University of Maine include Sue Estler, Associate Professor of Education; Karen Horton, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering Technology; and Suzanne Tyler, Athletic Director Emeriti. They will discuss Title IX. Carlynne McDonnell is coming from AAUW California to will speak on Creating a Successful Branch Culture.

In the afternoon State President Charlene Goehring-Fox will conduct our annual business meeting, and we will elect state officers and hold our basket auction. Optional activities will include a guided tour of the renovated Hudson Museum in the newly renamed Collins Center for the Arts on Friday afternoon, as well as a guided early-bird walk at Orono Bog Boardwalk on Saturday morning. **Make plans now to join us on May 14-15 and take the opportunity to be an active member of AAUW Maine. Your ideas, creativity and energy will help make the convention a success!**

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 14, 2010

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 3:00 – 6:00 PM | Registration |
| 3:45 – 4:45 PM | Guided Tour of the renovated Hudson Museum in the renamed Collins Center for the Arts, Orono Campus (<i>Optional</i>) |
| 5:00 – 6:00 PM | Cash Bar, Wells Conference Center, upper level |
| 6:00 – 6:15 PM | Welcome |
| 6:30 – 7:30 PM | Dinner – Wells Conference Center, Room 3, upper level |
| 7:30 - 8:30 PM | Presentation of branch awards. Speaker, Betsy McDowell, Member, AAUW Board of Directors |

Saturday, May 15, 2010

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 6:30 – 7:45 AM | Guided Tour of Orono Bog Boardwalk, Orono (<i>Optional. Bring binocs if you want to see spring migrants</i>) |
| 7:45 - 9:00 AM | Registration, check-in |
| 8:00 – 8:50 AM | Continental Breakfast Buffet - Wells Conference Center, Room 3, upper level |
| 8:50 – 9:00 AM | Welcome |
| 9:00 – 11:00 AM | Keynote and Panel Discussion: Title IX – It's Effective, It's More than Athletics, and It Needs Our Continued Support |
| 11:00 – 11:15 AM | BREAK |
| 11:15AM - 12:15PM | Speaker – Carlynne McDonnell, “Creating a Successful Branch Culture” |
| 12:15 – 1:15 PM | Lunch |
| 1:15 – 3:15 PM | Business Meeting and Elections |
| 3:15 – 3:30 PM | Wrap up – basket drawings and evaluations |

DIRECTIONS to Wells Conference Center, University of Maine campus, Orono: Exit I-95 at mile 193, Stillwater Ave. From the south, on the ramp turn right onto Stillwater Avenue, Orono. From the north, turn left at the top of the ramp. At the 4th traffic light, turn right on College Avenue. About one mile ahead, just beyond Alford arena, turn left on Long Rd. to campus. The nearest parking lot is the large parking lot on right opposite the football stadium. Walk away from the stadium, between Corbett and Dunn Halls. Wells Conference Center is immediately ahead. Use entrance at front right side.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I wrap up my second year as State President, I have been reflecting on AAUW and my role within the organization. I was quite shocked to realize that I have been a member of AAUW for nearly half of my life. I am sure many of us can claim that, although it may be a bit more eye opening to realize that I haven't yet celebrated my 40th birthday. I will

soon, but I can still claim to be 39 for a couple more months! Some in AAUW Maine are likely sick of hearing me talk about membership and the need to be actively recruiting younger members; however, with our recent February 1 Count report from Association, I can tell you that the need is more important than ever before. We are down to 229 members statewide (not counting National members, formerly known as Members-at-Large), a 12% drop from last year. At this rate, in eight years, we will not have enough members in Maine to support state or branch operations.

I was recently at a Waterville branch meeting where I challenged the members to remember the reasons why they joined AAUW and, more importantly, to examine why they continue to be members of our great organization. Most likely, many of you joined when you were considered a "younger member," in your 30s and 40s. What attracted you to the organization? Were you the youngest member in the branch or were there others your age? My grandmother gave me the gift of membership when I graduated from college. She had been a longtime member, and AAUW was important to her. She was my mentor, so AAUW became important to me. My branch in California did the smartest thing they could do. They nominated me to be on the board during my first year!

I was hooked -- on the mission, the organization, and the leadership skills I was learning and on the friendships I was making. I was 22. I strongly believe that these reasons are STILL desired by young women and that we need to market AAUW better. Because we haven't been actively recruiting younger members over the years, marketing AAUW and showing women what we have to offer them, becomes not only more difficult but also necessary. Further, while our organizational age is climbing, our numbers are declining because we don't recruit new members. Why? Are we so comfortable in our groups that it has become difficult to challenge the status quo? What if those women in Bakersfield, CA had felt that

way? I certainly would not have been invited onto the board and would not state president today!

It is not easy to look in the mirror and be honest. But, it is imperative that we do just that. If you care as much about AAUW as I do, then you know that we have to evolve our branches back to the mission-based groups that they used to be, 30-40 years ago. To be blunt, most young women today do not join social clubs; they prefer to be part of a movement, to learn leadership skills helpful in the job market, and to have networking opportunities. If we can't see our way to offering these benefits, AAUW in Maine will suffer and disappear. I challenge you to get involved with your local branch and move the activities beyond the scope of a social group. Think back to what attracted you to AAUW in the first place; then help your branch create and activate a positive, growth-producing plan. Many resources are available at aauw.org to help you. I am here to help with this process; I hope to be a member of a thriving AAUW organization for many years to come--please join me!

EF/LAF BASKET RAFFLE 2010



Branches are busily assembling baskets that will fund AAUW-Maine's annual contributions to AAUW's Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund. These baskets are truly works of art.

Each branch has 50 raffle tickets [or more if requested] for pre-convention sales; the cost remains 4 tickets @ \$5 and 10 @ \$10. Your EF/LAF liaison or branch president should have the tickets for your branch; if you have trouble finding tickets, let me know at susan.landry@umit.maine.edu (or 581-1509 weekdays). Ticket holders need not be present at convention to win, but it would be wonderful to see you in Orono to collect your prize in person!

You may recall that in 2009 as a state we contributed a total of \$634 (divided equally between the two funds), and in 2008 it was \$686-- so let's try reaching \$700 this year! To pique your interest in purchasing tickets and selling them to friends and colleagues, I'll keep your EF/LAF liaison apprised of the various themes featured this year.

Keep Maine Connected CAMPAIGN ONGOING

At the March 2010 meeting of the AAUW Maine Board, the *Keep Maine Connected Campaign* was wholeheartedly endorsed. With a goal of \$2,000, a total of \$905 has been raised. These extra funds help us meet our annual budget in the face of decreasing membership and allow us to join in activities and programs that support advocacy and education for women and girls.

If you have yet to give to the campaign, please support the goal by giving whatever you can. Checks should be made out to "AAUW Maine" and sent to Marilyn Leimbach, state treasurer (9 Wilson Park, Waterville, ME 04901).

MAINE'S 2009 CONTRIBUTIONS TO AAUW

by Susan Landry

AAUW-Maine sent \$317 to LAF and \$317 to Educational Programs with funds raised from basket sales at the 2009 convention. Four branches contributed a total of \$1,570 to the Educational Opportunities Fund and \$840 to the Legal Advocacy Fund. Individual members added totals of \$285 and \$85, respectively, to those funds, as well as \$10 to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, \$10 to Leadership Programs, and \$125 to general "AAUW Funds." Finally, through the note card and similar programs members provided unrestricted support in the amount of \$847. Thus, a grand total of \$4,406 was donated. It is probably not surprising in these economically challenging times to see a slight downturn from 2008, but let's keep our goals high for 2010!

CALLING ALL NATIONAL MEMBERS!

"National members" of AAUW were formerly known as "Members-at-Large." People become a National members of AAUW for a variety of reasons, one of which is that while they support the mission, they do not have time to participate in local branch activities. All AAUW members appreciate this and are glad to have your support of our organization and mission. Sometimes, a National member joins AAUW without realizing that there are state and local activities! We have eight active branches throughout Maine that meet regularly and conduct programs and events that support the AAUW mission of advancing education and equity for women and girls. Members in the branches have varying levels of participation, but all support AAUW and the friendships they have found here. Joining at the state and branch levels is a great way to connect with other like-minded women right here in Maine and to have the chance to be a part of our local efforts to move AAUW's agenda forward. We would love to meet and welcome you! We hope you will contact the person listed for your closest branch:

Presque Isle- Pat Rathbun (prathbun@maine.rr.com)
Caribou- Leona Michaud (michaudl@eagles.lcs.org)

Houlton- Deborah Melvin
(dmelvin@houlton.sad29.k12.me.us)
Hancock County- Betsy Eggleston
(islandearth@acadia.net)
Penobscot Valley- Janice Osgood
(eben.osgood@maine.edu)
Midcoast- Margaret Boyajian
(mmboyajian@roadrunner.com)
Waterville- Cathy Bevier (crbevier@colby.edu)
Bath/Brunswick- Betsy Schmidt
(eschmidt@suscom-maine.net)

NATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY-APRIL 20, 2010

Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day each year when women's earnings finally "catch up" to men's from the previous year. As many of you know, women earn, on average, 77 cents to a man's dollar- 76 cents here in Maine. It is not too late for your branch, or you as an individual, to mark the day publicly. The Waterville branch will have an Op Ed run in their local paper. Individuals can write letters to the editor or to our Senators, demanding the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act. If you own a business, you could offer your female clients 23% off for the day (Pat Rathbun in Presque Isle did this last year!). Call attention to the issue in your Facebook status. A wealth of ideas are found on AAUW's web page (aauw.org)- check them out!

In addition, Maine Equal Pay Day is April 6. AAUW Maine members are celebrating by attending the reception for Lilly Ledbetter on March 30 (see article on page 1).

DID YOU KNOW?



Barnes&Noble.com and AAUW have joined together to bring you an online bookstore for AAUW members only! When you shop at: www.bn.com/aauw you will automatically get an additional 5% off of the online price of books, music and DVD (many titles online are already discounted 10-40%), and free standard domestic shipping on orders of \$25 or over (some restrictions apply).

- Discount is not available in Barnes & Noble retail stores.
- Barnes & Noble members may use their discount card online.
- Are you published? E-mail jguerra@book.com to get listed.
- Bulk discounts available: just e-mail jguerra@book.com for a quote. Discounts, coupons and free shipping do not apply to used textbooks.

SUPPORT THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF NCCWSL!



Early-bird registration for the 2010 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders opened on February 15! The conference, with the theme of **Leadership for Today and Tomorrow**, will be held on June 3-5, 2010 at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Your support enables the AAUW community to present outstanding student leader conferences. In 2009, more than 400 women from 44 states, the District of Columbia, Jamaica, and Tibet attended NCCWSL. The Waterville Branch sent a student from Thomas College, who has now become a member of the branch. Many students attended through scholarships that you — AAUW's members, branches, and states — funded. Nearly 70 additional students received scholarships from the generous gifts you made to the NCCWSL Scholarship Fund.

Please support the conference by sending students from your community or by giving to NCCWSL scholarship fund #2504 or NCCWSL general support fund #2505. Also see <http://www.aauw.org/nccwsl/>

AAUW IMPACT GRANT COMING TO A CLOSE

by Charmen Goehring-Fox

Last summer, AAUW Maine was awarded a Public Policy Impact Grant to be implemented during the 2009-2010 membership year. We decided to use the grant funds to facilitate a year-long collaboration with the Maine Women's Lobby/Maine Women's Policy Center. In the fall, we dedicated part of the funds to co-sponsor the Breakfast with Champions events with the Maine Women's Policy Center. These notable events were held in Presque Isle, Bangor, and Portland. In addition to the great showing of AAUW members at each event, many other notable figures were present including several candidates for governor. We brought Lisa Maatz, AAUW's Public Policy Director, to Maine as a speaker for each of the Breakfasts. The remainder of the grant effort will be focused on cross-promoting our organization with the Maine Women's Lobby members. Our hope is to encourage their members to sign up for and use the AAUW Action Alerts and the AAUW website and to collaborate further with AAUW Maine and its branches.

E-STUDENT AFFILIATE OPPORTUNITY

You can use AAUW's FREE e-student affiliate initiative (<http://www.aauw.org/About/join/eStudentAffiliate.cfm>) to recruit undergraduate students who do not already have

a bachelor's degree and who currently attend an AAUW college/university partner institution. Branches and states can use the Member Services Database to encourage local e-student affiliates to become branch and state members. State and branch college/university relations officers, membership vice presidents, and presidents now have access to the information they need to offer students the opportunity to join AAUW.

HALLMAN AND THE HEALTH SECTOR

AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman continues to be invited to the prestigious Health Sector Assembly and now serves on its advisory committee. Her involvement began when she was the executive director of the American Medical Women's Association. The assembly is an annual gathering of health care constituencies including employers, consumers, government, foundations, industry, economists, and selected providers.



On January 8, AAUW Linda Hallman attended an event with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton marking the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICDP). Clinton spoke about U.S. support of the ICPD goals of universal access to reproductive health care around the globe by 2015. AAUW's 2009-11 Public Policy Program declares our support for international family planning programs and increased access to health care.

See www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/principles_priorities.cfm

BRANCHING OUT: News from the Branches

Presque Isle (from Pat Rathbun)

Presque Isle branch met October 5th, co-hosting a dinner and reception for Lisa Maatz, sponsored by the Aroostook County branches. Several members also attended the Breakfast of Champions the following morning.

On December 12 we met at Pat Rathbun's home for our annual pot-luck brunch. This year, all members will be asked to contribute a children's book to be distributed by a local charity in time for Christmas.

Our major activity for the year began in January, continuing through March, as we launched a three-part program open to the public. Titled "Basics of Investing for Women," this series will advise women about aspects of sound investing and money management., our local representative for Edward Jones Investing. We're very excited about the opportunity to present this program to the public.

Mid-Coast Branch (from Judy Dinmore)

The Maine Literary Festival event and AAUW Mid-Coast Branch scholarship fundraiser are top priorities for the branch. Acclaimed author Lisa See is on book tour for *Shanghai Girls*, her latest novel after her best-selling book, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*. Her talk and book signing are scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, at the Camden Opera House at 7PM. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the box office. To purchase tickets in advance go on-line to www.camdenoperahouse.com or mail your check to Maine Literary Festival, Box 886, Camden, ME 04843. Make checks payable to Maine Literary Festival. Also see, www.mainerliteraryfestival.com, or call Maryanne Shanahan at (207) 236-8575.

The Mid-Coast branch was pleased to sign-on as a supporter in a letter urging co-sponsorship of the High School Sports Information Collection Act (S. 471) and the High School Athletics Accountability Act (H.R. 2882). This legislation would require that high schools report basic data, which they already collect, on the number of female and male students participating in their athletics programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams.

Our annual June luncheon is scheduled for noon on Wednesday June 16th. The speaker is Laura Harper, Director of Public Policy, Maine Women's Lobby, who will describe her role as a feminist lobbyist in Maine involved in statehouse politics. She will relate a story of a policy campaign, probably paid sick days because that is the priority bill this session. This year we travel to Lincoln County for our special event. The location is The 1812 Farm in Bremen on the Pemaquid Peninsula. We warmly welcome members of other branches. If you would like to attend, the price is \$20.00, payable to AAUW Mid-coast Maine Branch and mailed to our Treasurer, Ann DeWitt. Also, please contact Judy Dinmore to make your menu selection at jdinmore603@roadrunner.com or (207) 354-0008.

Monthly programs scheduled for the remainder of the season are Celebrate National Poetry Month with a poetry quartet in a program titled, *The Beauty of Maine*, by four local women poets, Ellen Goldsmith, Carol Bachofner, Ellen Taylor, & Kathleen Ellis on Wednesday, April 21, 2010; and *Women in Business in Maine* by speaker and jewelry artist, Ronna Lugosch, owner of Pea Pod Jewelry located in Round Pond Maine on Wednesday, May 19, 2010. All programs are presented at the Rockland Public Library in the Community Room. A brown bag lunch starts at 12 noon followed by a meeting at 12:30 and the program at 1:00 p.m. For questions call Carol Bachofner at (207) 594-8954.

Quiz Answers from page 8: 1. Margot Fonteyn, 2. Jacqueline du Pre, 3. Emmeline Pankhurst, 4. Agatha Christie, 5. Shami Chakrabarti

Bath (taken from Bath-Brunswick Branch News by Debbie Schall)

On March 10 the Book Group met at Thornton Oaks Library to discuss the thought-provoking book, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. The Knitting Group met on March 12 at the home of Debbie Schall. Several of our members participated in the most recent campaign for afghans for afghans by knitting items for children ages 7-14.

On March 20, the Bath-Brunswick branch will hold their Spring Gourmet Brunch and Branch Meeting at Thornton Oaks Dining. On March 22, there will be a meeting to discuss Growstown School Meeting at the home of Anne Pierce, 59 Federal Street, Brunswick. The Book Group will discuss *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery and Alison Anderson on April 14. Also on April 14, the annual meeting of the branch will feature Alex Petrov with the theme of *To Grow a Village*.

Waterville (from Bets Brown)

The Waterville Branch is currently preparing an Op Ed article about Equal Pay Day, Lilly Ledbetter, AAUW, and the need parity in work place economics. We decided at the February meeting that we did not have the resources or energy to launch a new event by April 20, which is Equal Pay Day. A letter to the editor seemed too short. Joan Sanzenbacher contacted the person at the newspaper, the *Morning Sentinel*, responsible for Op Eds, who encouraged us to prepare this. The team of writers is hard at work to have the piece done by early April.

On March 17, we will hear Jennifer Strode discuss her work as an artist and printmaker. In 1986, after hearing herself say "I wish I could draw" she enrolled in a drawing course at the University of Maine at Augusta and discovered the joys of studio art. The next discovery was printmaking. In 2007 the contents of her print studio moved the Artdogs Building in Gardiner, Maine, where, as a founding member, she helped to form Circling the Square Fine Art Press, a collective printmaking facility.



Waterville branch member Betty-Jane Meader is organizing the summer outing to Monmouth Theater. The event keep us connected during the summer. We always enjoy the tailgating dessert that Betty-Jane prepares for the event. If you are interested in joining us at the theatre, contact Betty-Jane (meaderb@thomas.edu).

Penobscot Valley Branch (from Janet Givens)

The March meeting of the Penobscot Valley Branch included a tour of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health

Center in Bangor. Executive Director Ruth Lockhart led the tour and provided information about the Center, which often serves as a first access point for many women by providing healthcare options and social service referrals.

Almost 100% of our branch members participate in one way or another to make our annual Book Sale a success. It will be held on April 10, 2010, at the Church of Universal Fellowship, Main Street in Orono. Come join us!

We have planned a great state convention at Wells Conference Center at the University of Maine for May 14 and 15 2010. All AAUW Maine members are encouraged to attend.

COALITION FOR MAINE WOMEN

by Bets Brown

AAUW Maine is a member of the steering committee of the Coalition for Maine Women, which is newly reorganized from the previous Women's Leadership Action Committee. The Coalition held its first Day at the State House on February 11, where representatives of the 40 groups participating in the Coalition talked with legislators, learned about lobbying and advocacy, and displayed information about their groups. Workshops were held to train members on lobbying and on participation in public hearings.

CATHY BEVIER WITH REP. EDWARD FLINT



CHARMEN GOEHRING-FOX & REP. ROBERTT HUNT



Members of AAUW Maine encouraged legislators to support paid sick days for all employees, to remove the chemical DECA from food pallets, and to produce a fair and balanced budget. Charmen Goehring-Fox, Cathy Bevier, and Bets Brown represented AAUW Maine at this notable and significant event.

In January, Bets Brown had the privilege of joining Laura Harper and Chris Quint of the Coalition in meetings first with Senate President Libby Mitchell, Senate Majority Leader Phillip Bartlett II, and Assistant Majority Leader Lisa Maraché and then with Speaker of the House Hannah Pingree. Our goal was to familiarize them with the Coalition, using AAUW Maine as an example of one of the 40 groups that belong.

A CENTURY OF DISTINCTION: 100 WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

from Patti Irish and Bets Brown

On the eve of the 100th of International Women's Day, the *IoS* brings you its guide to the 100 British women who, arguably, have done most to shape the world we live in today. Copy and paste this website into your browser to see the list

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/news/a-century-of-distinction-100-women-who-changed-the-world-1917427.html>.

Here's a quiz from that list. Do you know your British women?

1. Who was one of the greatest ballerinas of all time and had Rudolph Nureyev as a partner at the end of her career?
2. Who's rendition of Elgar's *Cello Concerto in E Minor* is immortal despite her premature death?
3. Who founded the Women's Social and Political Union in 1898 and led the British suffragette movement?
4. Who wrote 80 detective novels featuring Hercule Poirot and Miss Jane Marple?
5. Who is the former Home Office barrister, has been director of the civil liberties and human rights organization Liberty since 2003, and is a prominent campaigner against terrorism laws and the detention of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay?



Help Stop H1N1 Influenza: Support Paid Sick Days Legislation

Lucy Stinson
Bath Brunswick Branch, AAUW
Member, Maine Women's Lobby Legislative Committee

When you work hard in Maine, you should be able to care for yourself and your family when illness strikes, especially in the case of a public health crisis such as pandemic flu. Unfortunately, nearly one out of every two full-time workers in Maine is denied even a single paid sick day. As a result, employees must choose: either come to work and risk spreading their illness or stay home and risk losing a day's pay... or even their job.

AAUW of Maine is a member of the coalition promoting legislation to prevent the spread of H1N1 influenza by ensuring the provision of earned paid sick time. This legislation would:

- Provide for paid time off in the event of a public health emergency to provide critical care for yourself or a family member.
- Exempt businesses that already provide paid sick days as part of their combined time off policies (sick, vacation and/or holiday all combined into one).
- Include time to recover from illness, receive preventative care, or to use in relation to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Guarantee workers one hour of paid sick time for every 40 hours worked (approximately 6 days annually) at large businesses with 25 or more employees.
- Guarantee workers one hour of paid sick time for every 80 hours worked (approximately 3 ¼ days annually) at small businesses with fewer than 25 employees.

The vast majority of American voters believe that paid sick days are already guaranteed. But the truth is that three quarters of low-wage workers and nearly half of full-time workers lack this protection.

According to a 2007 survey done by Lake Research Partners, 87% of Maine voters believe that Maine should require paid sick days. They are a workplace standard whose time has come. Get involved! Contact the Maine Women's Lobby at 207.622.0851 or info@mainewomen.org.

Lucy Stinson
Bath Brunswick Branch, AAUW
Member, Maine Women's Lobby Legislative Committee

CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS AND CEDAW from Shirley Davis

The Citizens for Global Solutions has prepared a letter to your U.S. Senator that you can sign. The letter urges President Obama to ratify the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This treaty supports advancement and protection of women's human rights around the world.

If you are interested in reading and signing this letter to President Obama, you can go to the site below and scroll down to page 9. If you have any questions, contact Shirley David at Shirley_Davis@umit.maine.edu.

http://globalsolutions.org/files/general/January_2010_Toolkit_o.pdf

LEGACY GIFTS FOR AAUW

by Bets Brown

As members of AAUW, we all want to support the vitally important and productive work of AAUW. Sometimes, especially in economic times such as these, we cannot do all that we would like to provide financial support. In December, I received *In That Moment I Knew: AAUW Annual Report 2009*, which delineates numerous successes of AAUW and, like all annual reports, lists the donors in various categories.

I was surprised to see how few women from Maine (only three) had pledged a legacy gift to AAUW in their wills. Such gifts are easy to make and can readily be incorporated into your estate. If you would like to make such a gift, you can contact Laura McCulty Stepp, AAUW's Director of Development. I took this step several years ago and found it a very rewarding experience. I recommend this form of giving to you.

HARDY GIRLS HEALTHY WOMEN IS EXPANDING



HGHW is a successful nonprofit in Waterville with the mission of creating opportunities, developing programs and providing services that empower girls and women (see www.hghw.org). You may have heard of their successful Girls Rock weekends or their Girls Unlimited conferences. HGHW has begun to expand to other counties in Maine (e.g., Aroostook, Washington, and four others) and to collaborate with other non-profits. If you have a chance, this is a wonderful, delightful organization with which to collaborate.

BETS BROWN

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CALENDAR 2010

2010

Mar 30 Lilly Ledbetter Reception in Augusta

April 6 Maine Equal Pay Day

April 20 National Equal Pay Day

May 14-15 AAUW Maine State Convention in Orono.

July 1 FY09 Branch Dues Reports Due

July 7, 3 pm AAUW Maine Summer Board Meeting.
At Home of Mary Ireland, Hope, ME

Aug 10 Dawn Breaker deadline

Nov 15 Dawn Breaker deadline