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***DAWN BREAKER***  
THE NEWSLETTER OF  
AAUW MAINE  
SPRING 2011/12  
VOLUME 59, NUMBER 3



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**AAUW Maine Convention**  
**April 27-28, 2012**  
**Thomas College, Waterville**

***Crossing the Line - Fighting Bullying and Sexual Harassment***  
(Registration Form is on page 2)



**Friday, April 27**

6:00-10:00 Pizza and movie, "Miss Representation" at Comfort Inn Suites, Charmen Goehring-Fox's suite. **All are welcome!**

**Saturday, April 28 - at Thomas College**

- 8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast
- 8:30-9:00 Welcome by President Charmen Goehring-Fox and Waterville Mayor Karen Heck
- 8:15-9:00 Ice Breaker
- 9:00-9:45 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Susan Fineran, Professor of Women and Gender Studies and Social Work, University of Southern Maine

Dr. Susan Fineran is a professor at the University of Southern Maine School of Social Work and Women and Gender Studies. Her professional career includes clinical experience in the areas of aging, substance abuse, child and family treatment, sex discrimination, and women's issues. Her research interests include sexual harassment and bullying as they affect adolescents in schools and in the workplace, and the implications for child and adolescent mental health.

- 9:45-10:00 Break
- 10:00-11:30 Panel: Bullying and Sexual Harassment
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch and Public Policy Action Activity
- 12:30-1:30 Association Update with Association Director-at-Large, Charmen Goehring-Fox
- 1:30-1:45 Break
- 1:45-3:00 Business Meeting/Elections
- 3:00-3:30 Wrap up/Basket Drawing/Evaluations

There are various local hotels to choose from including the Comfort Inn Suites, Hampton Inn, and Best Western Plus.

Convention fee: \$40, includes breakfast, lunch and convention materials.

**Registration form is on next page.**

**2012 CONVENTION BASKET RAFFLE FOR AAUW FUNDS**

We will hold our annual basket raffle at spring convention to generate AAUW-Maine’s contribution to AAUW Funds; proceeds this year will be divided equally between the Educational Opportunities (#4336) and Legal Advocacy Funds (#3999).



It has been pointed out that in putting together our basket contributions we need to scale back a bit so that each one is readily portable! It has become increasingly difficult for winners or their representatives to get their booty out the door and into cars usually shared with other members and filled with luggage and AAUW materials. To lighten each winner’s load, branches with so many wonderful bits and pieces that one basket would be nothing less than humongous are encouraged to put together multiple smaller baskets to be raffled separately. In the past some branches have had so many goodies that they’ve spilled over to a second container anyway, but everything went to one winner. Ruffling each basket separately allows us to increase the number of winners and probably increase the total revenue because interest will be stronger among ticket buyers. Multiple baskets from a branch can be filled within the same theme or can be assembled purposefully to represent varied ideas. Let’s have fun with it!

Ticket cost remains 4 @ \$5 and 10 @ \$10; ticket holders need not be present at convention to win. Tickets can be purchased in advance from a state leadership team member in your branch or directly from me. If you want to have some to sell to family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues, just let me know and I’ll mail them out to you. Remember, we hope one day to welcome as AAUW members all who agree with our mission; certainly we welcome their assistance in funding the mission!

Susan Nolan Landry, AAUW Funds Liaison, [susan.landry@umit.maine.edu](mailto:susan.landry@umit.maine.edu), weekdays - 207-581-1509

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**AAUW of MAINE CONVENTION 2012 REGISTRATION FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Branch

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City and Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address

Registration Fee: \$40 (check made out to “AAUW of Maine”)

Please return form and check to  
Treasurer Carolyn MacRae ([carolyn.macrae@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyn.macrae@yahoo.com)): 17 Martin Avenue, Waterville, ME 04901.

## President's Message

from Charmen Goehring-Fox



What a difference a few months makes! In the last *Dawn Breaker*, I celebrated how we had worked with the Coalition of Maine Women to successfully battle back against several anti-choice measures and now we have a whole slew of legislative proposals nationwide that will effectively chip away at women's rights. These challenges are true reminders that AAUW is still relevant and our work is not done. We in Maine are also dealing with the loss of Senator Olympia Snowe in a few months and wondering who will replace her; hopefully someone who values women and will be on our side.

AAUW have been very active lately. Rush Limbaugh and the Blunt Amendment regarding contraceptive coverage have kept members across the country busy writing letters and calling their legislators. Our national staff have been responding as well, assisting members, writing press releases, planning actions to combat this "war on women." One of those actions is the current nonpartisan Get Out The Vote campaign called, "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard." Targeting young women of the millennial generation, 15 target states will be holding day-long trainings with AAUW staff, leaders, and coalition partners this spring. There will also be a strong, targeted media campaign. The 35 remaining states are encouraged to use resources such as the Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout manual found on the AAUW website to help encourage women to vote this year.

Here in Maine, our collaborations with the Coalition of Maine Women and the Maine Choice Coalition continue to be strong. Bets Brown and Sharon Barker represent us well on the Coalitions and are always seeking other members to join them in events in Augusta, in writing letters or op-eds, and in working on behalf of our public policy priorities.

Your AAUW of Maine Board voted this past weekend to offer 2012 monetary support to the The New Leadership Institute run by Mary Cathcart. This program introduces college-aged women to the possibilities of serving in public office and exposes them to wonderful female role models.

Your AAUW of Maine Board is also busy planning our annual state convention to be held April 27-28 at Thomas College in Waterville. Our theme reflects AAUW's latest research report, "Crossing the Line" about sexual harassment. In addition to activities on this theme, we also will engage in discussion, learn about what's going on in AAUW, elect new officers for 2012-2014, and have fun! I sincerely hope you are planning to attend, fuel your flame of enthusiasm for our organization, gather with old and new friends, and plan our future.

## AAUW's Legacy

from Charmen Goehring-Fox

As a new national Association Board member, I have had a wonderful few months getting to know the other directors and the staff, but especially learning more about AAUW than I ever thought possible. This fall, I will have been a member for 20 years. It is crazy to think I have been a member for nearly half my life! Obviously, I care deeply about this organization and its future. I believe many of you do as well. My sitting in our board meetings listening to staff outline the many projects, events, and sponsorships; the lobbying on behalf of women and girls; the millions of dollars in fellowships and grants makes me more determined than ever to do my part to make sure this organization that I love is here for future generations. One way I do that is by volunteering my time. But, it is equally important for me to contribute my money.

Many of you know that my husband is still unemployed so making contributions right at this moment is tough. However, I can become a member of the Legacy Circle and make arrangements to leave a percentage of my estate to AAUW in my will. Considering our current financial situation, it seems strange to do this, but it is a perfect solution. I don't have to contribute money I need for other things now, but I can direct that AAUW receives financial assistance after I am gone.

We currently only have one Legacy Circle member in Maine, and I challenge you to increase that number. AAUW staff are able to assist you in setting up the paperwork, and you can be assured that your organization will have the funding it needs to continue the wonderful work in the future! I will have packets available at convention if you are interested in learning more or you can get more information on AAUW's website. Thank you for considering how you can do your part to ensure AAUW's future!

I look forward to seeing you at convention!

### Farewell and Welcome

by Bets Brown

After seven years, I'm stepping down as editor of the *Dawn Breaker*. It's been a pleasure keeping up with everyone around the state. I am delighted to ask you to welcome Lindsey Lachance, incoming editor of the *Dawn Breaker*. She'll bring a fresh perspective to this task. She can be reached by email at:  
Lindsey.Lachance@umit.maine.edu.

## CELEBRATING THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

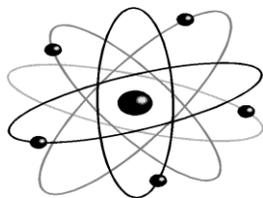
Submitted by Sharon Barker  
Sharon\_Barker@umit.maine.edu

The Women's Resource Center at the University of Maine will celebrate 20 years of accomplishment on April 12 at the Buchanan House at the University of Maine. Lyn Mikel Brown, will speak on "Encouraging Activism: Girls' Voices and the Power to SPARK Change." Dr. Brown will begin speaking at 2:00 with a reception following. The event will continue with stories, music, poetry, and the opportunity to share experiences that people have had over the last 20 years with the Women's Resource Center.



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### STEM in Maine



Darylen Cote of the Caribou Branch has been serving as the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) liaison with AAUW on the Leadership Team for the Maine Girls Collaborative Project (MGCP). She

has been working on STEM activities with mini-grants from MGCP, collaborating with the Maine School of Science and Mathematics; Girl Scouts; Women, Work and Community; and our local schools to develop a conference titled, "Engineering Your Future." This event is intended to introduce participants (mostly girls) to careers in engineering. Another project involved taking Upward Bound students to Maine Medical Center in Portland as a follow-up to their advanced Anatomy and Physiology class. Darylen was also just recently appointed to serve on the newly created national Association STEM committee. We thank her for her work on behalf of Maine girls and STEM!

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### AAUW of Maine and Facebook

by Bets Brown (wilbro@fairpoint.net)

Did you know that AAUW of Maine has a Facebook page? When in Facebook just search for "AAUW Maine." The page is maintained by the national office and by Charmen Goehring-Fox and myself. It focuses on news of Maine AAUW interests and on national news. Let us know if you want to post anything there (such as your meeting announcements).



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### Nominations for the 2012-2014 AAUW Maine State Board

President: Betty-Jane Meader (Waterville)  
Program VP: Lindsey LaChance (Penobscot Valley)  
Membership VP: (potential nominees being developed)  
Corresponding Secretary: Joan Sanzenbacher (Waterville)

This slate will be voted on during the business meeting at our state convention. We appreciate these women stepping up to board leadership. They will be joining Recording Secretary Kristin Sweeney (Bath/Brunswick), and Treasurer Carolyn MacRae (Waterville) on the Executive board-both Kristin and Carolyn have one year left on their terms.

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### State Directory Update

Each branch should submit its new leadership roster to Joan Sanzenbacher ([jhsanzen@colby.edu](mailto:jhsanzen@colby.edu)) by **July 15, 2012** for inclusion in our AAUW Maine 2012-2013 Directory. You may include brief information outlining branch meeting dates, key events and ongoing activities. This directory serves as an important tool for our state and branch leaders to correspond with each other.

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### Anti-Bullying Reform

excerpted from *The Week*, 3/16/2012 issue

Minnesota's "largest school district agreed this week to a sweeping new plan designed to prevent anti-gay bullying. After years of complaints and a spate of student suicides, the sprawling Anoka-Hennepin district, north of Minneapolis, approved a legal agreement with the federal government, which had been investigating the district for civil-rights violations. Under the new plan, the district will abandon its emphasis on neutrality, which called for teachers not to intervene in issues involving sexual orientation. Schools will now actively seek to prevent, detect, and punish gay or gender-based bullying."

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"Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our needs."

-George Eliot

## **Five Maine Institutions Become College/University Partners**

from Betty-Jane Meader

Five college/university (C/U) partners in Maine include: Bates College, Colby College, Southern Maine Community College, Thomas College, and the University of Maine. Northern Maine Community College (NMCC) did not join again this year.

According to Angela Cooper, AAUW senior member relations manager, "Only specific targeted schools received an invitation to join AAUW as C/U partners in October." The mailing list included the following non-members: Bangor Theological Seminary, Beal College, Bowdoin College, Central Maine Community College, College of the Atlantic, Eastern Community College, Husson University, Kaplan University, Kennebec Valley Community College, Maine College of Art, Maine Maritime Academy, St. Joseph's College, Unity College, UM at Augusta, UM at Farmington, UM at Fort Kent, UM at Machias, UM at Presque Isle, UM System, UNE, USM, Washington County Community College and NMCC. If you are affiliated with any of these institutions, please encourage them to join AAUW.

E-student affiliate status is free to undergraduate students who attend an AAUW C/U partner member institution. The most recent e-student affiliate in Maine is Jami Childress from Thomas College.

## **AAUW of Maine Membership Count Down for Fiscal Year 2012**

from Betty-Jane Meader

As of Feb. 2, 2012, Maine has 195 current AAUW members, 25 less than last year. Nine branches are listed on the roster: Bath-Brunswick (60), Penobscot Valley (42), Waterville (39), Mid-Coast Maine (21), Hancock (14), Caribou (13), York County (5), Presque Isle (1) and Houlton (0). In addition, Maine has 149 National Members (formerly called Members-at-Large/MALs). These women believe in our mission and desire to support our organization. As AAUW of Maine Membership Vice President, I will be sending a list of our National Members to each branch membership chair, who will contact these members in her area and invite them to join the local branch and the state organization.

As part of the 2012 AAUW of Maine convention at Thomas College, branches that have increased in membership this past year will be recognized: Caribou, Penobscot Valley and Bath-Brunswick. Membership vice presidents of these branches are encouraged to be present to receive their award.

## Start Smart Workshop Held at Thomas College by Tracey Horton

Start Smart is one of a series of salary negotiation workshops presented around the country aimed at eliminating the gender wage gap. Its cosponsors are the Wage Project and AAUW. While Start Smart targets college students, Work Smart targets working women, Return Smart targets women returning to the work force, and Trade Smart targets trade workers.

AAUW is a co-sponsor of the workshops, which are held at numerous colleges and universities around the country. There were 28 held in the last three months of 2011, and 70 have already been held or are scheduled for 2012. Three of those occurred in Maine, at Colby College and University of Maine at Orono last fall, and at Thomas College last month.

Eleven young women took advantage of the three hour workshop at Thomas on February 6, led by Annie Houle. Sarah, a psychology/ criminal justice double major, said, "I am really happy that I attended the workshop. I gained valuable



knowledge that I can't wait to try out when I start looking for jobs after grad school. However, some of the skills I learned will be valuable in grad school as well. I wish I had learned the skills before I accepted a few of the jobs that I have taken in the past. I did exactly the opposite of what you are supposed to. I was just excited that I was getting paid more than a previous job and didn't negotiate for a higher salary that I deserve. I am so glad that I learned these skills and I will feel more confident when I receive job offers in the future that I will be getting paid what I truly deserve."

Betty-Jane Meader, an AAUW member and professor at Thomas, reported, "The students enjoyed the interactive and informative workshop. Facilitator Annie Houle recommended they have a backpack of knowledge, including their expenses, a calculation of what the job is worth in the specific geographical area (salary.com), and information about the company and its competition. Ms. Houle cautioned them to avoid being the first one to mention a salary figure after receiving an offer. In negotiating a salary, the students must discuss their worth with confidence to obtain what they wish to receive."

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*"People have been writing premature obituaries of the women's movement since its beginning."*

--columnist Ellen Goodman

## Celebrate 40 Years of Roe v. Wade

Submitted by Bets Brown

January 22, 2013 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, granting women the right to choose. Supporters of Roe v. Wade all over America are planning ways to celebrate this vitally important U.S. Supreme Court Decision. Why not celebrate with your AAUW branch or in your community? One in three women has an abortion in her life. A celebration also supports these women.

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### Our Work Is Not Done

The 11 inductees to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame announced this month include only one woman, singer-songwriter Laura Nyro. Among the 296 inductees to the Hall of Fame since its founding in 1983, only 40 have been women or included female members. --**Salon.com**

Nearly one out of five women claims to have been raped or sexually assaulted, a new federal survey of 16,500 adults found. One in four women reports having been beaten by a boyfriend or husband. --**The New York Times**

The number of mothers who have young children and work for phone-sex companies has risen by 400 percent in the last 18 months because of the dismal economy. "Most sound a little embarrassed," said Chris Durst, who runs a website that helps mothers find ways to earn money at home. "They say, 'I've tried everything. This is the fastest way for me to get my family back on its feet again.' "

--**ABCNews.com**

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### IMPORTANT: BY-LAWS NEWS

Instructions for mandatory branch bylaws amendments have arrived! To conform with Washington, D.C. nonprofit corporate code changes and IRS requirements for nonprofits, branches must insert new language in USE OF NAME, MEMBERSHIP AND DUES, and PROPERTY articles. Within bylaws, policies or procedures, branch contacts for finance, administration and a recorder for minutes of each branch and branch board meeting must be identified. To find mandatory language, further information and a bylaws checklist go to: [www.aauw.org/membercenter/bylaws/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/membercenter/bylaws/index.cfm).

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*"If I'm too strong for some people, that's their problem."*

--actress & British parliamentarian Glenda Jackson

## State Department Launches STEM Program for Women from Muslim Nations

Submitted by Mollie Schmidt

The Department of State launched the new NeXXt Scholars Program <<http://app.aaas-science.org/e/er?s=1906&lid=10224&elq=29c02a2e453c41acb8c278b24c9455cd>> (PDF file) in partnership with 36 American women's colleges on Dec. 11. The program is aimed at female STEM students from predominantly Muslim countries and hopes to recruit 75 students in its first two years. NeXXt Scholars will be paired with a female scientist as a mentor, given a 5-year membership to the New York Academy of Sciences, and have access to internship and research opportunities. Outreach will be led by local EducationUSA advising centers. All admissions and financial aid decisions will be made by the participating women's colleges, and each college that admits a NeXXt student from overseas will be able to designate an incoming American student as a "STEM sister," who will also be given a mentor and a science-academy membership.

#### IN THIS TOGETHER

I am my sisters' keeper

We're in this together  
Not to win  
Not to compete  
Not to conquer

But to educate  
To nurture  
To help

We are each the other's keeper  
Let us celebrate  
The power within us all  
To make the difference  
To change the world.

--Author Unknown

#### How to Be Effective Quickly

AAUW's Two-Minute Activist is designed for busy people who want to have their voice heard on key issues related to AAUW's mission. Just visit <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/>.

## Keep AAUW of Maine Connected in 2012!

AAUW of Maine needs your help. State dues have not been raised in many years, and the state budget for FY 2012 continues to be truly bare bones. In these hard times, rather than propose a dues increase, the Board has opted to continue the development campaign that was begun a few years ago. The goal of this campaign is to provide some financial assistance for AAUW of Maine Board members for their travel to regional and national AAUW meetings that benefit all of us and **Keep AAUW of Maine Connected**.

In the past, AAUW of Maine has been viewed nationally as an important state because of its outstanding leadership, programs, and events. AAUW of Maine activities and accomplishments over the last several years include:

- ◆ Ongoing partnering and networking with the Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine Women's Policy Center, the Maine Choice Coalition, and the Coalition of Maine Women.
- ◆ Receipt of two national impact grants from the Association, which were used by branches to sponsor Get-Out-the-Vote activities and to raise awareness of wage equity through collaboration with the WAGE Project and the Maine Department of Labor.
- ◆ Maintenance of a long-standing Maine AAUW-Canada CFUW connection.

Please consider sending a contribution—above and beyond the \$10.00 state dues that you have already paid—to help AAUW of Maine continue to stay connected.

Please make checks out to “AAUW of Maine” and send them to:

Carolyn MacRae, Treasurer  
17 Martin Avenue, Waterville, ME 04901

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Check for: ( ) \$10 ( ) \$25 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$100 ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions will be acknowledged in future issues of the *Dawn Breaker* and at the AAUW of Maine annual convention next spring.



## AAUW Funds Report

from Susan Landry, AAUW Funds Liaison  
susan.landry@umit.maine.edu

### Contributions from Maine

I reported to you last on our state, branch, and individual giving for 2011 through September 30; here is the update for the final quarter of the year: additional gifts of \$396 brought our Maine total for the year to \$4,032.00.



Incidentally, all members with internet access can view their giving history online, which may be handy if you have yet to file your 2011 tax returns. Go to the AAUW website, enter your member number, and click on "Member Services Database." Log in or register if you're a first-time user. Once you are registered, click "My Profile" to view your giving history.

In 2012, we will continue our state convention tradition of making our AAUW-ME contribution by **raffling wonderful baskets** contributed by our branches. Details are included with registration information for spring convention on page 2 above. It will be exciting as always to see the marvelous variety of themes our branches come up with and how those themes are expressed by the items in their baskets. Remember you can buy raffle tickets ahead from me (see email address above). You don't have to be present at convention to support the raffle.

### The Bigger Picture: Recipients of Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Recently, 2001 American Fellow Melissa Harris-Perry debuted a weekly program on MSNBC. Right out of the gate she sparked some controversy by railing against popular film *The Help*. You can easily find video of her statements and the panel discussion on her program (just *Google* her!), and at <http://blog-aauw.org/2012/02/09/aauw-fellow-to-msnbc-host/> you can learn more about her fellowship experience and her impressive accomplishments since receiving it.

AAUW International Project grantees help women across the world break through economic barriers. Côte d'Ivoire grantee Patience Ogele reports that despite a recent political and security crisis in her area, the 15 women she is training to build fish-farming businesses have stayed committed to the project. Ogele, a 2004-05 recipient, is carrying out her plan to overcome the underrepresentation of women in sub-Saharan governance, which results in municipal programs that do not reflect priorities of the entire population. By improving the formulation and implementation of community projects, Ogele intends to increase women's participation and ensure that they benefit from such efforts.

### The Latest from LAF

Lawyer Susan Burke and several plaintiffs from the LAF-supported case *Cioca v. Rumsfeld* are featured in *The Invisible War*, a documentary about sexual assault in the military that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January and won the Audience Award

([http://filmguide.sundance.org/film/120070/the\\_invisible\\_war](http://filmguide.sundance.org/film/120070/the_invisible_war))

The Department of Defense estimates that about 19,000 military service women and men were sexually assaulted and raped in 2010; Kori Cioca is the lead plaintiff in the case, which alleges that the defense secretary's failure to act on the issue of sexual assault against the plaintiffs amounts to a violation of their constitutional rights. Burke believes that institutional changes needed in the military are unlikely to be won in the courts, so she plans to keep this case in the legal system as long as possible to create a lot of media attention and inspire public pressure for legislation that can stimulate those necessary changes. Strategies to enlist public support include getting the word out via this film and an accompanying petition released on the day of the premiere; as she told the LAF committee early in January, Burke trusts these efforts will help the cause and prove instrumental in effecting change. Info about the film is at <http://invisiblewarmovie.com/takeaction.html>, along with a petition in support of survivors. Other action you can take: contact your representative about the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act and contribute to AAUW to help offset the legal costs of the lawsuit.

Remember: tax-deductible donations to LAF help balance the scales of justice for women.



AAUW of Maine Board Meeting: March 10,  
2012

Sitting L to R: Susan Landry, Lindsey Lachance  
Standing L to R: Betty-Jane Meader, Joan Sanzenbacher,  
Kristin Sweeney, Carolyn MacRae, Charmen Goehring-Fox



## Branching Out: News from the Branches

### **Bath-Brunswick Branch**

from Deborah Schall

Thanks to the Mid-Coast Branch for taking the leap and creating a website with the resource team at national AAUW. It encouraged us to move our current website to the national office, too, and we look forward to working with them as needed. Our new web address is <http://bathbrunswick-me.aauw.net>.

We are enjoying a successful year and are happy to report that we now have 65 members. It was a thrill for us when our scholarship recipient from last year joined AAUW as a student member. She is so enthusiastic about AAUW that she wanted to spread the news about the value of our organization to her fellow students. So, she recently spearheaded a get-together at University College Bath Brunswick with members of our branch and other students. Those attending were impressed with AAUW and what it could mean for them once they are out of school.

Our branch meetings continue to educate and entertain us. At the end of January, after a lovely luncheon at Henry & Marty Restaurant in Brunswick, we heard from Barbara Fraumeini, Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Ph.D. program in Public Policy at the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine. Her topic was "Human Capital in China and Around the World."

Later in March, at our Annual Spring Brunch, we hear from Samantha Wilkinson, a columnist, park ranger, and Maine's only female state park manager, in her case at Reid State Park in Georgetown. In April, our guest speakers will be Gabriel Gosselin of Six River Farm and Cathy Karonis of Fairwinds Farm, two local women who, with their partners, run successful businesses and provide beautiful, nutritious vegetables year round at our local Farmers' Markets. We end our programming year with an update by Pamela Erickson, Executive Director, on Coastal Studies for Girls, a semester-long science and leadership school for tenth grade girls located in Freeport.

### **Hancock County Branch**

from Betsy Eggleston

The Hancock County Branch celebrated the holidays with their annual potluck supper at the home of Judy Bragg. In January, we enjoyed our annual book reading meeting when members shared reviews of books they have read during the past year. A list of all the books is then circulated to all members for their use.

In February planning meeting was enjoyed over lunch. This time was used to plan the rest of the year and to review our contributions to the University of Maine at the Mill Mall Center here in Ellsworth.

Our March meeting was postponed due to the poor weather. We were meeting with the Business and Professional Women in Ellsworth to listen to a speaker from the Agency on Aging in Brewer, Maine. The meeting will take place in early in April. Our regular April meeting speaker will be Kathy Norwood, discussing the Downeast Health Services. In May, we will hold our annual yard sale of plants, books, and food to raise funds. In June, we end the year with a potluck and our annual business meeting.

### **Mid-coast Branch**

from Judy Dinmore

Our Branch had the pleasure of awarding three "lift-off" scholarships for the Spring 2012 semester. Two students at University College at Rockland were awarded Jean Nickel Scholarships. They were: Susan Bennett from Washington, ME, who will be studying nursing, and Lara Smith from Hope, ME, whose goal is to become a Teacher Aid/Assistant. The third "lift-off" scholarship, a Bridget M. and Kenneth Q. Paddock Scholarship, was won by Maggie Raymond of Belfast, who is enrolled in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

We have posted our college scholarship application letter and form for graduating high school students in Lincoln, Knox and Waldo counties on our Web site <http://midcoast-me.aauw.net/>. Generous donors contributed over \$2,000 to our Education Fund and an addition almost \$5,000 to the Bridget M. and Kenneth Q. Paddock Scholarship.

We are looking forward to our Spring programs: on Wednesday, April 18, "The Grand Mansions of Wiscasset - Castle Tucker and the Nickels-Sortwell House," Speaker: Peggy Konitzky, Wiscasset Site Manager, Historic New England and, on Wednesday May 16, "Election Issues and Candidates." Programs are held at 1:00 p.m. in the Rockland Public Library's Community Room after our noon lunch and meeting.

Our annual luncheon is scheduled for June 20 with speaker Sue McCullough, Director of the University of Maine's Hutchinson Center in Belfast.

## Branching Out (continued)

### Penobscot Valley

by Janet Givens

Congratulations are in order for Penobscot Valley Branch member, Ruth Lockhart, who is now an inductee in the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. We are proud of Ruth and her many accomplishments.

The branch enjoyed our annual brunch hosted by Lee Davis at her home in January. Delicious food from different parts of the country and around the world was provided by members who shared anecdotes about their recipes.

The March branch meeting program, "Money in Politics, the Maine Clean Elections Act: Current Challenges and the Future of Reform," will be presented by Ann Luther representing the League of Women Voters. She is the treasurer of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections and chairs the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee. Barbara Nichols will lead this meeting.

Members Sharon Barker, Susan Landry, and Lindsey LaChance are arranging for the AAUW of Maine leadership team meeting at the University of Maine in March.

All branch members will be involved in some way with our annual fund raiser, The Book Sale, on April 21, 2012, at the Church of Universal Fellowship, Main Street, Orono. AAUW of Maine members are encouraged to come to Orono that day to buy books and enjoy the Coffee Bar, serving a variety of coffees, and the pastry/fruit smorgasbord of homemade treats. Lindsey LaChance is book sale chair. Peggy Hallee is in charge of the Coffee Bar.

Our annual meeting and dinner will be held in May at Thistles restaurant in Bangor arranged by Cathleen Bauschatz.

### Waterville Branch

from Bets Brown

Our branch members are so excited! March 23 is the date of our very special, dynamic program, Future Focus, which is a career day for 250+ eighth grade girls. The girls arrive on buses from various schools in the area. Their energy is AMAZING!

They start the day with a keynote speaker. This year the keynote will Skype live with girls their age in Iran. Next 55 or so women from a wide variety of careers meet with the girls. These careers cover a wide variety of jobs. A few examples of careers represented are forest ranger, veterinarian, banker, art museum curator, pilot, policeman,

development officer, mediator, mayor, ski coach, and blood bank supervisor. Each girl attends two panels of career women, where she enjoys an interactive session discussing the careers of the women on her panel.

After lunch the girls participate in a workshop. This year some of the workshops are building model bridges, making ice cream, yoga, making chocolate flowers, story telling, EMT and ambulances, and relationship building. At the end of the day, the girls come together to listen and sing along with a musician. Future Focus is a delight for all who participate!!

Our April 18 speaker will be Professor Andrea Tilden, artist and neurobiologist. Her drawings on Etch-A-Sketches are now showing in the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington DC. She will discuss the mechanics of this art form and share some of her creations.

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## Equal Pay Day is April 12: Why is this day Important?

### Women Earn Less than Men at Every Educational Level

A U.S. Census Bureau report found that in every field, at every level of education, women earn less than men. This is even the case in professions typically dominated by women, such as education and the liberal arts. Furthermore, as men and women achieve higher levels of education, the pay gap widens. According to the report, women are required to seek increasingly higher degrees if they hope to equal the pay of their less-educated male peers.

AAUW has long fought to end wage discrimination and believes that equal pay for equal work is a simple matter of justice for women. Wage discrimination affects the economic security of families today and directly affects retirement security as women look down the road. AAUW strongly supports initiatives that seek to close the persistent and sizable wage gaps between men and women, and minorities as well. To that end, AAUW supports legislation to promote pay equity.

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*"Women who set a low value on themselves make life hard for all women."*

—Nellie McClung  
Canadian suffragist and reformer (1873-1951)

## Virginia Senate Passes Anti-Choice Bill Mandating Ultrasounds

The Virginia Senate passed a bill this week that would require women to undergo an external ultrasound before having an abortion. The approved measure backtracked from a previous version of the bill that would have forced women to undergo a non-medically-necessary invasive internal ultrasound. The Senate also amended the bill to exclude victims of rape and incest who have reported their cases to law enforcement. The bill will return to the Virginia House of Delegates, where it is expected to pass. Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) has also indicated his support for the bill.

AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services. Access to abortion is consistently weakened through banning specific procedures and denying coverage to certain women—two actions at odds with providing the best health care for all women.



## IS THERE A WAR ON WOMEN OR WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE

Submitted by Bets Brown

I represent AAUW of Maine on the Coalition of Maine Women. We had a long discussion at the last meeting about the issues facing women today. After that discussion, I would definitely say that there is a war on women.

Here are a few of my thoughts on the matter. Social Security is under attack continuously these days as a potential source of revenue for funds for which it is not intended. There are attempts to raise the eligibility age and to decrease the amounts due to seniors once they are eligible. These changes would affect women more than men because more women than men rely exclusively on Social Security to keep them above the poverty level.

Women make up approximately half of the workforce in America today. Yet the Paycheck Fairness Act has not yet been passed by U. S. Congress. This bill would expand the scope of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Fair Labor Standards Act as part of an effort to address male-female income disparity in the United States. On average, women made 77 cents on the male dollar in 2008, a disparity that, in part, can be attributed to discrimination against women.

Virtually all women (more than 99%) aged 15-44 who have ever had sexual intercourse have used at least one contraceptive method. Yet some in Congress would limit

woman's access to contraception. One-in-three women have had abortions, yet some legislators would like to reverse Roe v. Wade and take away women's access to reproductive choice and family planning (see preceding article).

I also think that the media, including television and movies, is definitely waging a war on women. Few older women are depicted fairly and respectfully. Stand in line at the grocery store and look at the magazines. How many of the women on the covers are not built like models or are not millionaires? Our imaging of women is dreadful.

Is there a war on women? I think so. I hope you do, too. You may not see all of these issues as problematic, but fighting for women's rights is definitely a contemporary issue in which you can be involved. Please remember to exercise your right to vote.



## Female Senators Call on House to End Contraception Battle

All dozen female Democratic senators called on House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) to drop his promise to hold a vote on the House version of the Blunt amendment. The senators, led by Patty Murray (WA), sent a letter to Boehner on International Women's Day. The letter asked that Boehner not move any more birth control-related legislation. The Senate voted 51-48 to defeat the Blunt amendment, which would have allowed employers to deny coverage of health services, including birth control, based on their own personal objections.

The debate on contraceptive coverage sparked sexist and offensive comments by conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh. Limbaugh directed his comments at Georgetown Law student Sandra Fluke, who was recently prevented from testifying at a House hearing on contraception. AAUW condemned Limbaugh's aggressive personal insults and called upon advertisers to pull support from his show. Roughly 50 companies pulled their business, and Limbaugh's Thursday show saw five minutes of dead air.

AAUW has long believed that politicians should not insert themselves into the reproductive health care decision-making process and supports the right of every woman to access safe and comprehensive reproductive health services. AAUW is part of The Coalition to Protect Women's Health Care, which opposes any measure that attempts to restrict or limit the regulation on preventive care services and contraceptive coverage.

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## CALENDAR

### 2012

**Apr** Sexual Assault Awareness Month  
**Apr 12** Equal Pay Day  
**Apr 27-28** Annual AAUW of Maine Convention at  
Thomas College, Waterville, ME  
**May 13** Mothers' Day  
**May 31-Jun 2** National Conference for College Women  
Student Leaders, Univ. of Maryland, College  
Park, MD  
**Jun 17** Fathers' Day  
**Jul 12** AAUW of Maine Board Meeting  
**Aug 15** *Dawn Breaker* deadline

### 2013

**Jan 22** Celebration of 40 years of Roe v Wade  
**May 21** World Day for Cultural Diversity  
**Jun 9-12** National AAUW Convention, New Orleans  
**Ongoing** Applications accepted to be an AAUW  
review panelist for grants and fellowships  
(try it - it's fun!)