

Mission Statement: The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. Diversity Statement: In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Connecticut Shoreline Branch • Branford, Guilford, Madison, Clinton, Killingworth, Westbrook & more

February 2010

February 17 Branch Luncheon Meeting



Our AAUW Feb 17th meeting will have a speaker from the Haitian Ministries at 12:00 at the Maritime Grille in Guilford. Their mission is 'Helping Haitians help Haitians,' and they collaborate with Haitian individuals and organizations assisting those in most need. They financially support two orphanages, a meal program for children, a medical clinic, and medical missions. Also, they started and administer a scholarship program in which 150 children and young adults receive full tuitions to attend schools, some of them primary and secondary schools, others technical institutions and universities. Also, they work with an agronomist who helps in reforestation projects and provides environmental education in schools.

Emily Smack is the Executive Director and many of you know her and her husband, Bill. They used to live in Madison and operated Haiti's Back Porch, a Haitian folk art store that is now located in Middletown that returns all of its profits to Haiti. Emily will be the speaker if she isn't sent to Haiti, and if so a very involved board member will be speaking. The following is their website <http://www.haitianministries.org/administration-and-staff.html>

This program is hosted by the Bridge Group. Reservation Deadline, February 12. The tear-off form is on a following page in this issue. Call E. Brady, eloiseb@juno.com, with any additional questions.

For Women, What a Difference a Year Almost Made

by Lilly Ledbetter and Linda Hallman, CAE

A year ago today, on January 29, 2009, a new president signed his first piece of legislation into law. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act restored workers' rights to challenge illegal wage discrimination in the federal courts.

It was a proud moment, but we're sad to report that the job of ending wage discrimination in this country remains incomplete. The Lilly Ledbetter Act became law, but the Paycheck Fairness Act, its essential companion legislation, has stalled in the Senate.

What a difference a year almost made. But the good news for women and their families is that this year we can finish the job.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is a sorely needed update to the original Equal Pay Act signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1963. It would close loopholes, strengthen incentives to prevent pay discrimination and bring the Equal Pay Act in line with other civil rights laws. And it would also prohibit retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages--something Lilly could have used in her case.

The need for such a law is more urgent today than ever before. It's inherently unfair that the average woman in America makes, on average, just 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. Families today are more dependent on a woman's earnings for economic survival than ever before. But in the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression, pay equity is more than a question of fairness. It's a question of survival.

Paycheck equity isn't just morally right. And it doesn't just benefit women--it benefits families, communities, and the nation. Think about it: When women get equal pay for equal work and finally receive their rightful salaries, those dollars can flow more freely back into the larger economy in the form of consumer spending. Paycheck fairness for America's working women is itself an economic stimulus package.

The Paycheck Fairness Act has already passed the House of Representatives. President Obama, who co-sponsored the bill when he was a senator, is ready to sign it. But it's stuck in the Senate--and if it doesn't pass this year, we're back to square one. We need to pry it loose from Senate obstruction and pass S. 182 now. It's time the Equal Pay Act lives up to its name. The women of America have waited long enough.

Lilly Ledbetter, a 20-year employee of Goodyear Tire, is perhaps the best known face of the pay equity issue. Linda Hallman is executive director of AAUW.

-As seen in The Huffington Post, January 31, 2010. To learn more, please visit aauw.org.



Reports

President's Message

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The overall quality and value of the conference is evidenced by its continued success. Colleges send students to the conference and these students return to their campuses and initiate programs related to the conference's theme for that year: for example, promoting financial literacy to help eliminate the gender pay gap; encouraging young women to pursue education and careers in science, math, technology and engineering.

The conference this year will be held at a Washington, D.C. area university in early June. Our Branch might consider sending two female college students from the New Haven area to the conference this year; the cost would be \$1,400. The State may provide a grant of \$250 for each student. If that can be arranged, an additional \$900 will be needed. It is possible that the college will pay part of the fee (or possibly sponsor one student and we will sponsor the second student). The worst-case scenario is that our branch pays the entire \$900. I have been assured by our treasurer Melissa Lamoreaux that the money is available and will no way effect the money that has been set aside for other purposes such as EF, LAF or our local scholarship fund. Hopefully these students will speak at one of our branch meetings and share with us what they have learned.

On another note: Our recent branch meetings have been great. In December we heard a PowerPoint presentation from Weijun Zhang, a visiting scholar at Yale and professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University. The professor spoke about growing up in a small rural village in China. He shared with us pictures of his family, including his 88 year old grandmother whose feet are bound. He discussed the impact of the Mao takeover and the hardships his family endured. He was the first member of his family to be educated and now they must be so proud of him. The meeting was held at the Taste of China Restaurant and we all enjoyed a sumptuous meal. The event was hosted by the two International Interest Groups and the Friday Morning Literature Group.

In January, the Monday Afternoon Literature Group hosted a talk given by Dr. Megan Urry, Director of the Yale University Center for Astronomy & Astrophysics. Dr. Urry discussed why there were so few women in science. Some of the reasons included lower expectations by and for women, uneven evaluation when seeking jobs, and unfair stereotyping. She offered several steps to success for young women which included the need to work hard, do interesting things and reject lower standards. The room at the Guilford Library was packed with branch members and many local residents including several high school students. It was a most stimulating presentation and there were many questions and comments from the audience.

-Ann Gordon, co-president , gordonann@att.net

Save The Date

March 17, Branch Meeting

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Scranton Library, Madison
"Fresh Food on the Shoreline, Past and Present"

Light refreshments. Please call, if attending. B. Ann Ward, b.annward@gmail.com. Program is hosted by the Gourmet Group. Open to the public.

Welcome to Our Branch

Nancy Day, nancydday@yahoo.com., Guilford, CT.

Current dues paid by new members from Jan 1 to March 15, 2010 are half-price for National \$24.50 and State \$4.25, (Branch remains \$13.50). We will be holding a special "Shape the Future" campaign on Feb 17 at the "open to the public" meeting. Any new member joining "on-the-spot" at that meeting will have an additional half-off National and State dues, but these are good only for the remainder of the dues year ending June 30, 2010. New members joining after March 15 will pay the full dues of \$71.00 (National \$49, State \$8.50, Branch \$13.50). Those dues will cover the entire next year until June 30, 2011. Member fees: Make checks payable to AAUW Shoreline Branch. Send form and check to: Jan Jones, 78A Founders Village, Clinton, Ct., 06413. Membership Co-Vice Presidents: J. Jones, jeanettejones2001@yahoo.com
G. Passero, vpassero@snet.net

Every member is on the membership committee.

Board Meeting Dates

All branch members are welcome to attend.

February 6	Sat.	10:00AM
	M. Lamoreaux	
March 6	Sat.	10:00AM
	M. Brunelle	
April 1	Thurs	7:00PM
	A. Gordon	



Ride Sharing

Ride sharing to meetings is encouraged. We all benefit from high branch meeting attendance and enjoy traveling together. Some members really need to travel with another. Be aware of those that live near you or are on your way. Who can you bring? Call Nancy Chalker for help coordinating rides.



Our Nominating Committee Needs Your Help

Nominations for officers are open and we need YOU to fill a position. To volunteer, call one of the committee members. The experience is rewarding and jobs are often shared with a co-officer. Positions last for two years and start in July. We have a friendly atmosphere so, if you've never served before, you can learn by doing. There are a range of positions available. Thank you for taking your turn in a leadership or supportive role in our growing organization!

G. St Paul,
K. Conover,

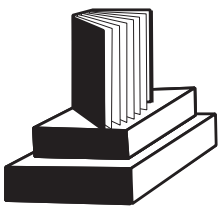
genestp@sbcglobal.net
kayconover@gmail.com

High School Book Awards

One of the programs that our branch sponsors, that I am so proud of, is our annual High School Book Award. Over the years this award has grown from giving a graduating senior girl from Madison and Guilford a dictionary and a thesaurus, to our upcoming award covering 5 high schools and presenting a framed certificate of achievement, a \$200 check for college, and a book presented to her high school library. Not only are we honoring the achievements of these girls, but in the presentation (before parents and friends) our Shoreline Branch AAUW is publicly acknowledged.

Having done this for many years, I am ready to turn this job over to a new coordinator. The job runs from mid-March (initial high school contact), through April (getting the book titles to be ordered and ordering them), through May (contacting schools again for recipients' names) to June when materials are delivered to the high schools for presentation. It involves a little concentrated time but gives a warm, proud feeling. I am looking for a successor and am happy to walk you through this first year. I have all the contact info.

Please contact Sonja Gibbs, sbgibbs1@yahoo.com) if you want more information or would like to help with this project.



Update on Alison Lutz and Partners in Health in Haiti

Many of you have voiced concern about Alison Lutz of Partners in Health, who spoke to a branch meeting about PIH's work in Haiti. Elaine Quayle, Ali's aunt, reports that Ali was at PIH headquarters in Boston at the time of the earthquake, and that she and her colleagues there are working literally around the clock to support operations in Haiti. Ali reports that since PIH's main operation is in Cange



(about 45 miles away from Port au Prince), they have been spared the worse, and no one from the organization was hurt. However, their operation is overflowing with patients as people from the capital manage to make their way to Cange for care. They did have a couple of satellite clinics around Port au Prince, and since the earthquake PIH has sent additional teams there to help with immediate care and triage to select patients who will need more complex surgery and extensive hospital time to recover in Cange. For more information on PIH's efforts, go to <http://www.pih.org> or <http://www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti>.

Food Pantry Collections

We are all aware of the rising need for food for pantries and soup kitchens feeding the hungry. Since last spring, our branch has offered voluntary opportunities to donate to this need at our branch meetings. Recently there has been some questioning if this is proper, or if people already are donating what they can through churches, other groups, etc, and are finding this too much. The food collected so far has gone to the pantry in the host town. The Board would like your feedback on this. If we continue, we would like volunteers to take the collection to that town's pantry.

I work at the Clinton Pantry. In recent months our weekly clientele has risen from 60 families to over 130 families. I'm sure this increase has been seen at all the Shoreline pantries.

Please let Ann Gordon or Alice Reitz know your thoughts on Branch collection. -S. Gibbs

February 17 Branch Luncheon Meeting, Maritime Grille

Maritime Grille in Guilford, 2548 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT
All reservations with checks for \$21.00 each should be payable and sent to:
Pat Rutlin 100 White Birch Dr. Guilford, CT 06437 by Feb 12th.

Meal choices will be: _____ Stuffed chicken _____ Sole franchise w/lemon&butter or _____ Pork chop with mushroom&Onion. The lunch includes a salad, dessert, coffee and tea and there will be a cash bar. Guests are welcome.

Name _____
Guests _____

Phone Number: _____

Nurturing New Leaders

I would like to tell you all about the National Conference for Women Student Leaders (commonly referred to by the initials NCCWSL). This conference, held in early June at a Washington, DC area university, brings together hundreds of female student leaders from all around the country. They select sessions from a multitude of choices during the course of the conference. Sessions are designed to provide leadership skills and ideas for attendees. Keynote speakers are inspirational, in addition to the honorees at the Women of Distinction Banquet. As part of their responsibility, returning students share ideas/programs that can be replicated or adapted on their campuses. They are also expected to make a presentation about their experiences at Branch meetings.

The New London Branch has sent students from Mitchell College. Because so many of you live in the Guilford/Madison areas, I was thinking of making contact with one of the New Haven colleges. The cost of sending 2 students to the conference is \$1400. We can get a \$250 state grant for each student. That means the cost of \$900 will have to be paid by either the college (ideally) or our branch, or the college might sponsor one student and our branch might sponsor the second student. If the college is unable to contribute to this convention, our treasurer Melissa Lamoreaux has assured me that we have the \$900 available.

I discussed this with the Board and some of the members had reservations about contributing this amount of money. I am now asking for your opinion. Please e-mail me (gordonann@att.net) or call (860-434-8608) within the next week if possible and let me know if you think our Shoreline Branch should send 2 female college students to this leadership conference.

Thank you, Ann Gordon

Legislative Alerts and Updates- aauw.org

Help Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

On Nov. 23, President Barack Obama announced the establishment of National Lab Day, an effort supported by AAUW and more than 200 other organizations representing over 6.5 million science, technology, engineering and math professionals and teachers. Now is the time to get involved! Read More online

Call Today to Protect Social Security and Medicare

UPDATE: Your voices were heard! On Tuesday, Jan. 26, the Senate rejected (53-46, with 60 voted required) moving forward with a proposal to establish a commission that would seek to reduce the federal budget deficit by cutting Social Security and Medicare programs. AAUW Action Network members were very vocal in their opposition to such an undemocratic commission, which would have a disproportionately negative impact on women. Many thanks to all those who took action by calling and emailing their members of Congress and President Obama. AAUW will continue to track developments on this issue.

Lunch and a Movie

Great Adventures Group February 13, 12:30

Alforno Trattoria (Benny's Plaza, Rt. 1 & Rt. 166)
1654 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook

Join us for a fun afternoon. Reservations: Send \$10 check by February 8 to: N. B. Porter, see membership directory, Madison, CT 06443

Financial Matters Group

On Tuesday, February 16th, the Financial Matters Group will be hosting an informational discussion entitled, 'Basis Tax Terminology for Non-Accountants,' at the offices of Sandra M. Woodbridge, CPA, at 166 Rte. 81 in Killingworth, at 4:00pm. For more information, please contact S. Pelletier at doc.shelley@jhu.edu.

Sound Waves- Help make it happen

Please send *Sound Waves* items signed and dated to the editor, C. Baldwin, e-mail to: caroba2000@comcast.net. The Deadline for *Sound Waves* is February 10, on the Wednesday following the Board Meeting, for the Mar/April issue. Items may be edited for length or style.

Thank you to C. Briggs, proofreader, to S. Baldwin for technical support, A. Osburne for e-mailing, and S. and M. Gibbs.

Publicity

Publicity chairpersons, Helen Greene and Anne Hyde, request that anyone who sees articles about AAUW Shoreline events, clip them and send them to Helen or Anne. They don't personally subscribe to all the newspapers to which they send publicity.

Co- Publicity Chairs,

-H. Greene,

-A. Hyde,

hjgreene@cshore.com

annehyde@sbcglobal.net

Our Historian Needs Us

The branch is reminded to send publicity articles regularly to the Historian. Newsletters and revised by-laws will also be forwarded to the Historian.

-M. Ann McAvoy, historian

Thinking of you

We were saddened to hear that Mary Jane Janick, age 77, of Ridgefield, longtime active member of the Ridgefield, CT AAUW branch and AAUW/CT Public Policy co-chair for several years passed away on Tuesday evening, December 29, 2009. Her contributions to our state and local organizations have been extensive. She was a great example and inspiration to us all. Her example should encourage us. She will be missed.

Calendar for February 2010

Feb` 1 International Relations I
 3 Bridge 1
 3 Bridge 2
Feb 6 Board Meeting 10 a.m. Sat
 M. Lamoreaux, All Members Welcome
 12 Friday Morning Literature Group
 13 Great Adventures, 12:30, Lunch and Movie
 Alforno Trattoria, N. Porter,
 15 Monday literature Group
 16 Financial Matters Group 4-530 p.m.Tues
 "Basic Tax Terminology for Non-accountants"
 Woodbridge&Cusano, 166 Rt. 81 Killingworth
 S. Pelletier, doc.shelley@JHU.EDU
Feb 17 Branch Luncheon Meeting,
12 Noon Wed
 Maritime Grill, Guilford
 (Reservations form this issue)
 Haiti Program Hosted by Bridge Group.
 Contact E. Brady, eloiseb@juno.com
 March 2 International Relations
 3 Bridge 1
 3 Bridge 2
March 6 Board Meeting 10 a.m. Sat
 M. Brunelle
 7 Gourmet Group Cruising the Mississippi
 M. Lamoreaux
 ?- Great Adventures
 Oriental Rugs and Quinnipiac Club
 Lunch, C. Marshall
 12 Morning Literature, Fri.
 A. Castelli
 15 Monday literature Group
 G. Passero

March 17 Branch Program 7:30 p.m.Wed
 Scranton Library, Madison
 "Fresh Food on the Shoreline, Past and Present"
 call if coming, b.annward@gmail.com
 24 International Relations II,
 Immigration
 April 1 **Board Meeting** Thurs 7:00PM
 Ann Gordon, gordonann@att.net
April 21 Annual EF Branch Meeting

Interest Groups

AAUW Shoreline Branch members may join any interest groups. We welcome new members.

Art Appreciation:

Times vary Mary Ann McAvoy

Bridge: 1st Wednesdays -Two Groups

1 p.m. E. Brady

7 p.m. C. Johns

Financial Matters: 1st Tuesdays,

4 p.m. S. Pelletier

Gourmet: Times vary A.Ward

M. Lamoreaux

Great Adventures: N. Chalker

H.Heath

Hiking: Tues, Fri, Sat B. Shildneck

International Interest Group I: 1st Mondays

10 a.m. G. St. Paul

International Interest Group II: 4th Wednesdays,

7 p.m. M. Lee Duff

Eclectic Literature: J. Hirschhorn

Morning Literature:, 2nd Fridays

10 a.m. J. Ann Miller

Afternoon Literature:, 3rd Mondays

1 p.m. V. Passero



WOMEN
 UNIVERSITY
 ASSOCIATION OF
 AMERICAN



Shoreline Branch (CT) Newsletter

C. Baldwin, Editor
 147 Iron Works Road
 Killingworth, CT 06419