



Mission Statement: AAUW advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Value Promise: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

November 2012 NEWSLETTER AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch

www.aauwbridgeport.org

2012: Another Election “Year of the Woman”?

The last time there was a sharp increase in the number of women elected to office was after reapportionment occurring in the presidential election year of 1992. Then it was known as “The Year of the Woman.” There has not been a similar surge since. However, this election year, 2012, has the potential to see women gain 3 percentage points of the seats in Congress: to raise the count of women Senators and Representatives from its 17% composition to 20% - to be another year of the woman.

Following the 2010 national census, “every congressional and state legislative district in the country has been redrawn” and new seats have been created. Redistricting and a presidential election coincide every 20 years. In Presidential election years, more people vote than in the "off-year" or Congressional elections. These additional “voters” often referred to as "occasional voters," tend to be *less* attached to political parties or incumbent office-holders. They are *more* responsive to the issues of the day and more *open* to newcomers, including women newcomers. Combine non-incumbent elections and reapportioned seats with a Presidential election and it spells opportunity.

Mary Hughes, spokeswoman < info@the2012project.us > 10/10/12 direct email response

Women candidates are more likely to be challenging men for seats formerly held by and previously sought to be filled by men only. Women win at the *same rate* as men – but simply put - not enough women have run. Now, more “new candidates” *than in the past* are women, and more are being encouraged by the likes of the “20% in 2012 Project”.

The 20% in 2012 Project is a national, non-partisan campaign effort of the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University with the goal of “inspiring women . . . to run for federal and state legislative office”. It does so while recruiting . . . “from eight industries critical to the nation’s future: health, science and technology, finance, energy and environment, international relations, and small business”. Let your voices be heard: vote in elections; run for offices!

<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/site/pages/about.php>

<http://www.womencount.org/open-letter>

Christine Bonosky, Communications VP

President’s Message

Many thanks to those who attended the September 22nd meeting at the Trumbull Library and especially to those who brought food for the luncheon. See you Oct. 25th. Any ideas for the holiday social? - please call me. (203) 375-1284, < fanslow@juno.com>

Carole J. Fanslow, President AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch

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You may recall that Louise Hine suffered a broken leg (foot?) some months ago. Just as she was getting up and about she fell again and broke her pelvis. Now she is confined to home and mostly to bed. Cards and calls would be welcome. Submitted by Linda Vaughan

We extend a speedy recovery to Virginia Loch. She would love company.

We value each and every member. If you know of anyone in need of a little “sunshine” drop an email or call me, that’s all that’s needed on your part. Carole Fanslow, President, (203) 375-1284.

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Two of our members, Carole Fanslow and Chris Bonosky, answered a call to *Connecticut Women* and attended the conference, “Be the Change You Want to See”; a joint venture of the Permanent Commission of the Status of Women and Vision 2020 which was held Saturday, September 15, 2012 at the Legislative Offices in Hartford ,CT. Expert panelists from corporate, government and the non-profit community came together that day to mobilize women to vote; to participate in the electoral process; and to support one another’s voices in leadership positions. The year 2020 is the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote, and this national initiative seeks to achieve gender parity on many fronts by this important date.



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United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Northeast Region Council presents

“Rising Tide Lifts All Boats”

Saturday, October 27, 2012, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Hilton Garden Inn, 85 Glastonbury Rd., Glastonbury, CT
Phone 860-659-1025 | Fax: 860-659-1024

The conference will focus on strengthening women’s economic, organizational, and political status as a way to strengthen all segments of the working class. Entrance fee: \$15, Lunch free. RSVP 774-264-0110, or by e-mail: uenortheast@gmail.com

Directions: from Southern CT
I- 91 North. Take Exit 25 towards Glastonbury. First exit is Main Street. At light, take left. First left is hotel driveway.

Second Annual

Women’s Policy Day

Tuesday, November 27th, 8:00am – 1:00pm

Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT

Join us for a day dedicated to informing and motivating women to engage in the legislative process. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the process and the tools needed to be leaders on policy changes impacting women.

The day will include opportunities to:

- Find out what women need to know about the impact of the federal Affordable Care Act on women’s health, featuring *Raising Women’s Voices*, a national initiative to ensure women’s concerns are addressed as the new health reform law is enacted.
- Hear about women’s policy from a panel of female lawmakers serving in the CT General Assembly.
- Learn how the General Assembly works; join an interactive session on the public hearing process; learn tips for how to testify on a bill.

Questions: contact Michelle Noehren at <michelle.noehren@cga.ct.gov> or (860) 240-0016

Registration is FREE! Download and share the event flyer.

Light refreshments will be served.

Register at: <http://ctpcsw.com/womens-policy-training-2012/>

Branch Programs, 2012-2013

SAVE THE DATE...PLAN TO ATTEND General Meeting: October 25, 2012; Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Discovery Museum, 4450 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606.

The topic is "Womens' Health Issues". Speakers will be: Dr. Nancy Manister, faculty member of Fairfield University; Jennifer Phelps, Board Certified M.D. in family practice; and Dr. Pramila Vishvanath, founder of the College of Naturopathic Medicine at the University of Bridgeport.

Holiday Gathering: February 10, 2013; Sunday, 2pm – 4pm; location TBA, cost p.p. TBD. March 14, 2013; Thursday, time TBA Trumbull Library, Quality St., Trumbull. Women’s History Month. leadership\philanthropy\arts - details TBA

March 23, 2013; Sat. 10am – 3pm; Discovery Museum: celebrate Women’s History Month.

April 25, 2013, Thursday, general meeting; details TBA

Annual Scholarship Fundraiser; details TBA

Annual Awards Dinner and Board Meeting; Thurs. May 30, 2013; Blue Goose; time & cost TBA

Linda DeLeon, Program V.P. <lindeleon@optonline.net>
(H) (203) 334-6882; (W) (203) 761-7308; or (203) 362-1844

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Community Action Projects

*If you volunteer, let us know about it.
Not only do your efforts deserve recognition; but what you do
inspires others to join in helping within the community.*

* Read with a Student at Wilbur Cross School, Grades K-3. Mornings.

Thanks go out to 10 readers at Wilbur Cross Elementary, six of whom are AAUW members!

Chris Ehler; MaryAnn Matthews; Sylvia Dahl; Jean Weicker; Gloria Manning; and Frances Nicholas read at Wilbur Cross each week. Holly Franquet reads at Madison School. An additional thank you goes to two annual SVA Read-Aloud volunteers: Mary Jane Foster and Claire Shumofsky. Claire for ‘many years at Bryant Elementary’. We salute all of you for your commitment!

Four additional weekly readers at Cross School are: Barbara Abraham, Bob Weeks, Judi Stern and Janet Jurow. They became volunteers with the encouragement of AAUW members! The ‘We’ in ‘Weekly’ really do make a difference! Ask any one of us about it.

Contact MaryAnn Matthews @ 203-261-3212, <mammatthews@gmail.com> +++++
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*Women Build: Habitat for Humanity

The *Women Build* days of *Habitat for Humanity* are scheduled for 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1 and 12/17. Contact <womenbuild@habitatcfc.org> or call 203-333-2642.

Habitat for Humanity also has volunteer hours every day except Sunday. The website will show availability, as many days are taken by groups (for example GE has 2 weeks in Oct.).

Other events co-ordinated by *Women Build of Habitat for Humanity* to benefit housing in the Greater Bridgeport area include:

- *The Gourmet Expo and Wine Tasting* on Nov. 15 at 6:00 at Aitoro in Norwalk. Always a feast and fun time, (including an auction)! There are still sponsorship and supporter opportunities available.

Amy Gillis, AAUW Advisor, Finance Committee, <amy.gillis@ubs.com> , (H)(203) 255-3008

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*Hand out the American flag to every newly sworn citizen at the Bridgeport courthouse. You'll feel great! Sessions are at 9:30 and 11:30 am, 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. on the **third Friday** of the month starting in October. To pick a date and time, contact:

Carole Fanslow at (203) 375-1284, <fanslow@juno.com>

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New Members:

Elizabeth (Liza) Hickey 203-381-0071
71 Hilltop Drive work (203) 551-3403
Trumbull, CT 06611 lshickey@aol.com

(guest speaker from the September 22nd general meeting at the Trumbull Library)

Jani Macari Pallis 203-321-0340
31 Nyselius Place work 203-576-7579
Stamford, CT 06905 jjpallis@gmail.com

Email, phone, address corrections

Linda Vaughan lincvaughan98@yahoo.com

Rosemarie Barone
930 Mill Hill Terrace
Southport, CT 06490

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

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Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

“Research shows that the most effective way for membership organizations to grow is through members who bring new individuals into the organization. Historically this has been true for AAUW. We reflect on our strong values and focus on AAUW’s future, striving to make AAUW vital and relevant in the future.”

“AAUW members belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. The years have proven that a member sharing their passion about AAUW with someone else has helped to keep our numbers strong. The stronger we are, the more we can accomplish on behalf of women and girls.

Share your passion — call someone you know or tell someone you may have just met and tell them about AAUW; tell them about the parts of the organization that make you so passionate. Tell them about the mission, the research, the advocacy, the philanthropy and why you are a member.

Then — ask them to become a part of this organization that means so much to you. Invite them to join, either as a branch member or as a National Member.

Even better — give the gift of membership. What better way to show your passion about AAUW than to share membership in the organization with someone you care about.”

http://www.aauw.org/member_center/membership_growth/MGM_Campaign.cfm accessed 9/26/12

A new member is someone entirely new to AAUW or who rejoins after 2 or more years. Applications should be sent to Sylvia Dahl, Membership Treasurer. The recruiting member’s name must be included with the application.

Note: *We desperately need a membership chair or co-chairs as I am not able to continue to fill this responsibility on top of being membership treasurer.* Sylvia

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Contemporary Global Issues

Wish you were better informed about contemporary global issues? You will be if you join our discussion group. The group meets the **second Tuesday of each month** at 9:30 am. Location: Bayview, a hedge-hidden, trustee-run, resource for educators at 920 Sylvan Ave., Bridgeport.

On November 13th will be a general discussion of the election results with future anticipation.

December 11th will be a discussion featuring “Mexico”. Phyllis Wing will be the facilitator.

One of our members acts as a discussion leader at each meeting. We use a briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association called *Great Decisions* to focus our discussions.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact

Merrilyn Decker, Chairwoman, (H) (203) 268-5013 or <merrdeck@aol.com>.

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The national organization AAUW began in 1881. In 2016, the AAUW **Bridgeport Area Branch** will celebrate its 100th year of promoting equity and helping to fulfill the promise of women and girls in our community!

Essays of Wartime Childhood; A reading and book signing

I would like our members to know that an excerpt from my unpublished memoir about growing up during the Nazi Occupation of the Netherlands is featured in a recently published anthology of essays from around the globe. The book is titled That Mad Game ~ Growing Up in a War Zone.

Published by the independent Cinco Puntos Press, the book is edited by J.L. Powers, and includes seventeen personal, reflective essays by writers who describe their wartime childhood. It can be ordered from Borders or Amazon. A reading and book signing event to benefit the Easton Library will take place in the library community room on **Sunday, Nov. 17 at 3 p.m.** followed by a wine and cheese reception.

RSVP requested: <epl@eastonlibrary.org> ~ 691 Morehouse Rd., Easton

Thank you for the opportunity to share my news;
I hope to see some of my old AAUW friends at the reading.
Sincerely,
Bep Breslav

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The People of Townshend Vermont
By Karl Decker

Merrilyn Decker’s husband, Karl, has recently published a book of photographs and short stories about people in a small Vermont town. The book also includes two essays and an introduction.

Author Lynn Stegner comments, “Karl Decker has captured on film the fleeting image of the soul, or the still-luminous fragments of memory. The book shows the singular power of place, the essentiality of shared hardship and happiness”.

If you are interested in the book go to Karldecker.com or attend a talk and book signing at the Westport Library on Tuesday October 30th.

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For archival purposes, please send any clipped newspaper/magazine or printed digital article or memorabilia regarding the Bridgeport Area AAUW to **Norma Albertal**, Branch Historian, at 1517 Dunbar Hill Rd, Hamden, CT 06514-1206. Or call at (H) (203) 804-1147 to arrange pick-up/delivery.

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AAUW Bridgeport Branch Calendar, 2012 – 2013

October 23rd - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.

October 25th – “STEM”, panel on women’s health issues, Discovery Museum, 7:00 p.m.

November 13th - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview, 920 Sylvan Ave. Bridgeport, 9:30 a.m.

November 13th - Evening Book Group – home of Sue Flemming, 7:30 p.m. RSVP 268-9024

November 27th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.

December 11th – Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview, 920 Sylvan Ave. Bridgeport, 9:30 a.m.

January 8th – Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview, 920 Sylvan Ave. Bridgeport, 9:30 a.m.

January 22nd - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.

February - (10th or 17th) Holiday Gathering; Sunday; date, location, time, and cost pp TBA

February 12th - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview, 920 Sylvan Ave. Bridgeport, 9:30 a.m.

February 19th –Board Meeting – Unity Hill UCC, 364 White Plains Rd., Trumbull, 9:30 a.m.

February 19th - Evening Book Group – home of Gretchen Goethner, 7:30 p.m. RSVP 254-8481

February 26th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.

March 12th - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview, 920 Sylvan Ave. Bridgeport, 9:30 a.m.

March 14th – Women’s History Month, Trumbull Library.

March 19th - Evening Book Group – home of Louise MacCormack, 7:30 p.m. RSVP 259-0625

March 23rd – Discovery Museum, Women’s History Month, (AAUW is a sponsors!) 10 - 3pm

March 26th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.

April 9th – Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview, 920 Sylvan Ave. Bridgeport, 9:30 a.m.

April 16th –Board Meeting - Unity Hill, UCC, 364 White Plains Rd. Trum. 7:00 p.m

April 16th - Evening Book Group – home of Mary Misevich, 7:30 p.m. RSVP 255-3804

April 23rd - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.

May 7th - Evening Book Group – Watermark, Barbara Szepesi, reviewer, 7:30 p.m.

May – Annual Fundraiser – Date and details TBA

May 14th – Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview, 920 Sylvan Ave. Bridgeport, 9:30 a.m.

May 28th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.

May 30th – Annual Awards Dinner & Board Meeting – Blue Goose, time and cost TBA

June 4th - Evening Book Group – planning meeting, location TBA

June 11th – Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview, 920 Sylvan Ave. Bridgeport, 9:30 a.m.

AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch Membership Campaign 2011-2013

Association Life: \$19.00

Regular Member:

Local	14
State	5
<u>National</u>	<u>49</u>
Total	\$68.00

National Membership Discounts:

- 1) Shape the Future – new recruits who “join on the spot at an event that is open to the public” – 50% off national portion. (For every two public event recruits, branch can redeem for one (1) free national membership – fax form to (202) 861-8068)

<24.50> off
\$43.50

- 2) 130th Anniversary campaign – grad students pay only \$18.81 for national dues their first year (extended through 11/30/2012).

<30.19> off \$68
\$37.81

- 3) a. Give a Grad a Gift. Current AAUW members can give a free national membership to college graduates who have earned their degree within the last 12 months.

<49> off \$68
\$19.00

b. E-student affiliation is free for all full-time undergraduate students attending an AAUW college/university partner member institution. Each e-student affiliate will receive free full membership to AAUW for one year as a graduation gift.

<49> off \$49
\$0

c. Students at institutions that are not AAUW college/university partner members can join AAUW for \$17 a year

<32> off \$49
\$17

- 4) a. Half year dues. Join between January 1 and March 15, new members pay only ½ national dues.

<24.50> off \$68
\$43.50

b. Bonus: Use ½ year in conjunction with “Shape the Future”

<24.50> off + ½ “STF” disc.
<12.25> off = \$31.25

*Member-Get-a-Member:

- bring one member – receive a certificate of recognition and placement in ‘Hall of Fame’.
- bring five members – receive free recognition pin.

9/22/2012