



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.

FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch

www.aauwbridgeport.org

President's Message

Happy New Year to all! I hope the warm weather lasts to see us through to spring.

Beginning in March, we have a wonderful upcoming spring season. On the 1st at the Trumbull Library, we have "50-50 by 2020", with Pat Russo from the Women's Campaign School at Yale. Our vision is to have true parity for women in congress. Then at 7:00 pm Wednesday evening April 25th at the Discovery Museum, Mary Jane Foster will join us to discuss her vision for the future of education with a focus on girls in Bridgeport and share her mayoral campaign experience.

To support our community partner, it would be greatly appreciated, if you could please bring an umbrella for the women at Mercy Learning Center to either spring event. Per our volunteer member Ellen Kuroghlian, "Most of the women take public transportation or walk, and spring brings showers....and flowers, too, of course. Just thought that if anyone wanted to pick up an umbrella while out shopping, she might find a challenge in finding the right price . . .and also concretely, and importantly, help another woman who is making an effort to learn, thereby benefiting her family, society, and herself as well."

Again this year, our branch is sponsoring two students from our college partners, Nidal Ali who is from Kurdistan studying at HCC and Gayatri Amatya from Nepal studying at University of Bridgeport, to attend the NGO Consultation Day and United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 56. We hope to have them meet with us following the conference to share their experience. This is a life changing opportunity for the students to learn, first hand from women around the world, about the status of women in politics, economics and civil rights.

With the 17th anniversary of the Violence against Women Act, on November 15th at HCC, our branch and the HCC Women's Center, HCC Men's Center, and GSA, sponsored a "Workshop on Campus Violence". We had a panel of experts to address bullying, sexual assault, domestic violence and sexual harassment. Over sixty students and faculty and staff members attended. Following the panel discussion, which included a representative from Congressman Jim Himes'

staff who discussed the pending legislation supported by AAUW (Safe Campus Act), there was a lively discussion of student's experiences and thoughts.

We also want to thank Lorraine Conway for sharing her teaching experience in China at the Holiday Tea. She brought the story of the children she met to life.

Judi Polizzotti Co-President AAUW Bridgeport, (203) 268-2014, <judypoli@hotmail.com>

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Bridgeport Branch AAUW

spring brings showers . . .

Please donate a new umbrella
to a woman of the Mercy Learning Center

Assist, and surprise in a meaningful way, another woman
who is making an effort
to improve her personal, family, and work skills

bring the umbrella to a spring event for donation

“Most of the women at the center take public transportation or walk in all kinds of weather”.
Ellen Kuroghlian

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A memorial service for Leonette Wishard, a member of our AAUW branch since 1945, was held at the United Congregational Church, 877 Park Avenue, Bridgeport on Saturday January 28, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.. A luncheon followed in the church parlors. Members of our branch served as honorary pallbearers.

Leonette died at the age of 109 after living a full life which included teaching in the Philippines, Greece, and Turkey; traveling to an amazing number of countries; and working to encourage women and girls to be leaders in their own communities.

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Networking

Networking is a group of new and not so new members who get together to network ideas and opportunities for working in the community. It is an opportunity for new members to learn about the organization and meet some of our more experienced members.

Branch Programs, 2011-2012

SAVE THE DATE...PLAN TO ATTEND

March 1, 2012, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Trumbull Library, Quality Street, Trumbull, CT

‘50/50 by 2020’How Do You Break Into the Old Boys’ Network?

In politics, it helps to attend the Women’s Campaign School at Yale. Patricia Russo, president of the WCS and a social activist, will speak about the mission of the school - “to bring forward talented, committed women who are looking to make a difference.” Specifically, WCS is a non-partisan, issue-neutral leadership training program to aid participants in the preparation of running for elective office. Women, as well as a few men, from around the country and the world, participate in this yearly program.

Are you thinking about running for office? Do you know someone who is thinking about doing it? Do you want to encourage other women to run? Find out how the Women’s Campaign School is taking action.

April 25, 2012, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Discovery Museum, Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT

We are honored to have as our presenter for the evening, Mary-Jane Foster: administrator; politician; business owner; attorney; volunteer. She will join us to discuss her vision for the future of education with a focus on girls in Bridgeport and share her mayoral campaign experience.

May 10, 2012, Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Annual Fundraiser

Square One Theater, Stratford

“The Good Doctor”. Tickets \$20.00 per person; reception to follow.

May 31, 2012, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Annual Meeting

Augustyn’s Blue Goose Restaurant, 326 Ferry Blvd. Stratford, CT

Program and cost TBA

Gretchen Goethner, VP Program, (203) 254-8481, ggoethner@aol.com

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Bridgeport Branch Calendar, 2011 – 2012

February 7th - Evening Book Group – 7:30 pm, home of Loiuise MacCormack, RSVP 203-259-0625.

February 14th – Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview 9:30 a.m.

February 21st –Board Meeting – Unity Church of Christ, 364 White Plains Rd. Trum. 9:30 a.m.

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

March 1st – Branch Program, ‘50/50 by 2020’, Trumbull Library, 7:00 p.m.

March 6th - Evening Book Group – home of Gretchen Goethner, 7:30 p.m., RSVP 203-254-8481

March 7th - Finance Committee – 16 Plymouth Ave. Trumbull, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 March 13th - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview 9:30 a.m.
 March 27th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
 April 3rd - Evening Book Group – home of Claire Shumofsky, 7:30 p.m., RSVP 203-372-1700
 April 10th - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview 9:30 a.m.
 April 17th –Board Meeting - Unity Church of Christ, 364 White Plains Rd. Trum. 9:30 a.m.
 April 24th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
 April 25th – Branch Program, Discovery Museum, 7:00 p.m.
 May 1st - Evening Book Group – location TBA, 7:30 p.m., RSVP 203-268-2014
 May 2nd - Finance Committee – 16 Plymouth Ave. Trumbull, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 May 8th - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview 9:30 a.m.
 May 10th – Annual Fundraiser – Square One Theater, Stratford, 7:00 p.m.
 May 22th - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
 May 31 – Annual Meeting- Augustyn’s Blue Goose Restaurant, 326 Ferry Blvd. Strfd, 6:30 p.m.
 June 5th - Evening Book Group – planning meeting, location TBA
 June 12th - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview 9:30 a.m.

Christine Bonosky, Newsletter Co-Editor, (203) 261-1241, cbonosky@gmail.com

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AAUW EVENING BOOK GROUP

2011 – 2012

1ST Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30 P.M.

Note: The meetings are changed to the 1st Tues., with the exception of November, in order to avoid conflict with General Meetings of AAUW held on Thurs. evenings. Please call the hostess if you're coming.

Feb. 7 Luncheon of the Boating Party Louise MacCormack, Reviewer
 by Susan Vreeland (about Renoir's painting)
 at Louise's house, 1491 Round Hill Rd., Ffld. (203-259-0625)

March 6 Major Pettigrew's Last Stand Gretchen Goethner, Reviewer
 by Helen Simonson
 at Gretchen's house, 394 Penfield, Ffld. (203-254-8481)

April 3 Small Island Claire Shumofsky, Reviewer
by Andrea Levy (about Jamaica)
at Claire's house, 747 Tahmore Dr., Ffld. (203-372-1700)

May 1 Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks Judy Polizzotti, Reviewer
at Judy's house, 58 Great Farm Rd., Monroe (203-268-2014)

June 5 Planning meeting for next year, location TBA

Louise MacCormack, Evening Book Group (203) 259-0625 < LouiseMacCormack@gmail.com>

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Contemporary Global Issues

Contemporary Global Issues is a discussion group which meets the morning on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at Bayview located at 920 Sylvan Avenue, Bridgeport, CT.

Dates, topics, and facilitators for 2012 are:

February 14	State of the Oceans	Barbara & Karl Wallischeck
March 13	Indonesia	Linda Suhr
April 10	Promoting Democracy	Jean Weicker
May 8	Middle East Realignment	Merrilyn Decker
June 12	Exit from Afganistan and Iraq	Claire Shumofsky
September 11	Cybersecurity	Chris Ehlers
October 9	Energy Geopolitics	Bobbie Schlig
November 13	Election results and future issues	general discussion
December 11	Mexico	Phyllis Wing

Merrilyn Decker, (203) 268-5013, merdeck@aol.com