

NUTMEG NEWS

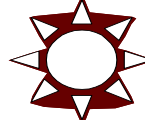
CT AAUW bi-annual
newsletter

Winter Issue, 2005-2006

February, 2006

REFLECTIONS FROM NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Winter greetings from your Regional Director! As a member of the Association Board of Directors, I have been attending meetings, participating in conference calls and chat rooms, and writing/responding to many emails on your behalf this fall. Our president, Ruth Sweetser, also asked me to be a member of the Association Strategic Planning Core Team. So...I have been very busy being a professional woman, a hard-working member of AAUW, and, of course, trying to *have a life* too!



Just a few insights about some of our strategic planning thinking: We have designed a protocol that will allow us to enter into dialogue with current members, potential members, previous members, possible donors, like-minded women and men, some critics, and many others from various strata of society. We have established a timeline and drafted some criteria for successful work. Be certain that within the next six months you will have opportunities to share with me either in person at state/branch/regional events or with me by electronic communication what it is that we value as AAUW and how we can move forward in the next decade or two as women of vision, strength, and purpose. I am looking forward to our conversations.

Many of you have begun to create, host, and participate in events based on our programmatic theme: *Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security*.

This is such an important facet of what it means to be a woman today who cares about equity for all women in our society. We, in AAUW, cannot rest until women can lead lives equitable to men no matter what we choose to do. We must marshal like-minded women and men of good will to join us in this fight for equity. The only comfort we have is that we are standing on the shoulders of great women in our immediate and far reaching past, who felt just as passionate as we do. Their spirit gives us strength to continue this struggle towards equity.

In closing let me assure you that your responses to the Every Member Poll which came to you in Outlook, are critically important to the Association and in particular to the Strategic Planning Core Team as we move forward with our work. You can view the poll at www.aauw.org/poll.

From the shores of CT, I wish you a wonderful, successful, and healthy 2006. Cheers!

Marcelline A. Barron
AAUW New England Regional Director

mbarron@fairfield.k12.ct.us
PO Box 320307
Fairfield, CT 06825-0307
203-255-8395 (work)
203-255-8273 (fax)
203-259-5919 (home)

To view pictures of the girls at Girls and Technology Summer Camp which CT AAUW supports, go to the following web-sites.

2005 www.ncamp.com/gtc/pix2005.html <<http://www.ncamp.com/gtc/pix2005.html>>
2006 www.nccamp.com/gtc <<http://www.nccamp.com/gtc>>



Upcoming Dates:

March 7

"Women and Islam"
p. 3

March 5

UN Int'l Women's Day
p.4

March 11

Jane Roberts at ECSU
p. 6

April 1

Greater Waterbury and
Naugatuck Book Author
Luncheon
p. 3

April 12

Stella Damoah
Shoreline Branch
p. 2

April 19

Stella Damoah
Greater Waterbury
p. 2

April 29

CT AAUW Convention
WATCH or more info

June 23

Auction, hors d'oeuvres
for EF
p. 4

To learn more, read AAUW's position paper on the [Higher Education Act](#).

AAUW members can read the February issue of [Action Alert](#) online.

Read the 2005-2007 AAUW [Public Policy Program](#).

WINTER BOARD MEETING OPENING REMARKS

Carol Virostek, Acting President CT AAUW

I'd like to welcome all of you to the Winter Board Meeting of 2006, and formally call this meeting to order. It has been an especially exciting, emotional, and educational couple of weeks for me. As some of you know, I was a delegate to the YWCA-USA Summit on Racial Justice, held in Birmingham, Alabama, last week. There is no way I can summarize or fully articulate in this short time, the impact of that experience on me: Going through the Civil Rights Institute with its multimedia displays – stirring speeches in one exhibit, horrifying images of brutality in another – with a Black woman from Louisiana by my side. Or sitting in the 16th Street Baptist Church, our speaker and guide, the cousin of one of the four little girls killed there in the bombing in 1963. She had received the warning phone call just five minutes before the blast.

But by far, the most memorable and moving experience of all, was spending the better part of three days with Alberta Davis, a Black woman from Mobile, Alabama. She was my partner during the introspection and interviewing sessions that began our inquiry into how the collective power and voice of the YWCA could help to facilitate the elimination of racism. Never have I had a more open, intimate, or painful conversation with a person whose background and formative experiences were so different from mine, but whose hopes and dreams were almost identical. I mention this because we, too, like the YW, struggle with questions of diversity, inclusivity, economic security, and social justice.

The YW's mission, boldly displayed on its brand, is twofold: eliminating racism and empowering women. Small wonder that I met there at least a dozen AAUW members from all over the country. We have much in common. To its credit, that organization understands that the second goal – empowering women – can never be realized until the first – eliminating racism – is embraced and addressed. Unlike the YW, however, I'm not sure that we in CT AAUW have ever deliberately and openly examined the implications of institutional racism and white privilege – monumental obstacles, not only to racial, social and economic justice, but also to our own mission of educational equity and economic security for all women and girls. So I challenge us – as we move forward in making plans for our annual convention, where we will adopt our public policy and a new strategic plan – to be as bold as our sisters in the YWCA. We must also do some serious introspection, both personally and organizationally, if we ever hope to become a more diverse and inclusive association.

To our credit, and totally in keeping with the initiatives undertaken at Association during the convention in 2005, we are on the right track. Since the summer board meeting, we have been pondering issues of who are we and what we stand for; how we conduct business and how we treat each other; how as an organization we might be more relevant and welcoming to a wide spectrum of prospective members. The dialogue that began in July will continue today during the latter part of the meeting, once our formal business is over. I look forward to it, and I trust you do too.

For my part, in my role as acting president, this is what I promise you today – a commitment to support and encourage you, to listen to and hear you when you have something to say, to represent this organization in the best way possible, to be ever open to change and new ways of conducting the business of this organization. I thank you for the support I have received thus far and request your patience and understanding as we undertake the journey together shaping the future of CT AAUW.



FIRST LEONETTE WISHARD INTERNATIONAL FELLOW TO ADDRESS TWO AAUW BRANCHES IN APRIL

Stella Damoah from Ghana, the first Leonette Wishard International Fellow, is studying for her MBA at the University of New Haven. She will be speaking to the Shoreline branch, Wed. April 12 and to the Greater Waterbury branch, Wed. April 19th. at 7:15 p.m. For April 19, Contact Joyce Kathan, 203-758-0658, Fax: 203-758-6689 or jckcco@aol.com for directions.

In 1997, Stella earned a Diploma in Executive Bilingual Secretary in Alliance Française d'Accra. Four years later, she graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Executive Secretary Option in Central University College, Accra, Ghana. Today, her goal is to obtain an advanced degree in a program that will broaden her business knowledge and understanding of current business practices. Since few women in Ghana are able to develop their business successfully, Stella wishes to advance her career in order to serve self-employed women in meeting the challenges in their businesses. Before leaving Ghana, she opened the Non Governmental Organization called: **Women Enhancement and Expert Development Secretariat (WEEDS)**. Additionally, Stella speaks several languages and has worked for the Danish Embassy.

"Women and Islam"

The Greater Waterbury AAUW branch invites CT AAUW members and their guests to a presentation by:

Dr. Jane I. Smith, Ph.D., Professor of Islamic Studies at Hartford Seminary

Tuesday evening, March 7th - 7:15 p.m.

Prospect Public Library – FREE open to the public

DR. SMITH has done extensive work on Muslim communities in America, historical relations between Christians and Muslims, concepts of death and afterlife, and the status of women in Islam. Dr. Smith has a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Hartford Seminary, a PhD from Harvard and formerly was a co-director of the Harvard University Center on World Religions. Having written many books and articles, she currently is the Editor of the Islam section of the New Encyclopedia of Women in World Religions. Recent publications include: *Islam in America*, Columbia Press, 1999, *Islam and Christendom* in Oxford History of Islam, Oxford University Press 1999, and *Mission to America: Five Islamic Communities in the United States*, University Presses of Florida 1993.

Persons wishing to attend notify Joyce Kathan at 203-758-0658 or at jkcocoa@aol.com by March 3 to assure adequate seating and get directions to Prospect Library.



BRANCHES CO-SPONSOR **BOOK-AUTHOR** **LUNCHEON**

Please join the Greater Waterbury and Naugatuck branches

Saturday, April 1st, 11:30 Social Hour, 12:30 Luncheon
Crown Plaza Hotel in Southbury (right off #84)
Price: \$30.00 per person

Books will be signed before and after the luncheon by the authors.

Dr. Jerry Labriola, M.D., Medical mystery writer, will speak about his new book *The Maltese Murders* and his collaboration with Dr. Henry Lee, famed forensic pathologist.

Gail Gauthier: Childrens Author will speak about *The Hero of Ticonderoga*, paperback For ages 9-12, named Notable Book; American Library Association. 2002, and *Saving the Planet & Stuff*, hardcover for ages 10-14.

Pete Duval: will speak about *Rear Window, A Collection of Short Stories*. Pete was the Winner of the 2005 CT Book Award for Fiction, lives in Wallingford and teaches at Fairfield University.

For reservations and directions contact:

Dr. Joan Donald, Waterbury Branch, 203-888-5117 or joandonald@adelphia.net
or Edith Sherman, Naugatuck Branch, 203-729-0064

STATE NOMINATIONS
2006-2008
SLATE of OFFICERS

President

Carol Virostek

Corresponding Secretary

Carol Blauvelt

Vice President-Programming

Mary Ann Kistner

Nominating Committee

Judi Polozzotti

Mary Ann Kistner

THANK YOU to this year's nominating committee of Candy Buebendorf, Stephanie Tercyak and Rosemary Woolwich for their work in recruiting members for the 2006-2008 slate of officers.

The slate will be voted on at the State Convention on April 29th.

LOWER CONNECTICUT VALLEY

by Mary Ann Kistner

The Lower Connecticut Valley Branch will have a fundraiser at the Stone House in Deep River on June 23 to support the AAUW Educational Foundation, the Legal Advocacy Fund, and a local woman attending college. The event will include an auction with wonderful items such as a week at a cottage on Martha's Vineyard; a week at a condo in Naples, Florida; a Dinner Party for 8; a day long boat outing on the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound; several original art pieces; an authentic oriental rug; and much, much more. In addition, there will be a silent auction for many hand made items, rounds of golf, restaurant vouchers, small antiques, jewelry, and other interesting pieces. The ticket donation is \$25.00 per person which includes

an hors d'oeuvres buffet, assorted desserts, and a variety of wines and beers. Tickets are limited to 125 attendees. Plan to come and celebrate with our branch on June 23 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm while financially supporting women's education and workplace concerns. Additional information and tickets can be obtained from Dawn Boulanger at boulangers@sbcglobal.net or (860)767-2510, or from Mary Ann Kistner at mkistner@adelphia.net or (860) 526-3621.



UN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION March 5th



The public is invited to celebrate the annual United Nations International Women's Day on Sunday, March 5th, in the Hubbard Room of Middletown's Russell Library at 2:30—4:30 p.m. The Greater Middletown branch of the Association of University Women (AAUW) will host this event, as it did in preceding years. A keynote speaker, international exhibits and foods, a modeling of international clothes from many countries and international networking opportunities will be part of the program. International students of area schools and colleges are also invited to attend and participate in this event. Stella Damoah from Accra, Ghana, will be the keynote speaker. She is one of the recipients in 2005 of an AAUW Educational Foundation International Grant for graduate study in a United States university.

For further information about the UN International Women's Day, call (860) 347-4887.

Submitted by Barbara Arafeh

Convention Preliminaries: This year's convention will take place on Saturday, April 29th and will have a unique shoreline "flavor." On March 9th, there will be a planning meeting at Carol Virostek's at 5:00 p.m. where the exciting details of the convention will be finalized and plans for disseminating them made. Please freely share your ideas by that date with Carol Virostek, crvirostek@aol.com or Carol Blauvelt, cablauvelt@aol.com.

Carol Virostek

NOTICE: *The latest research report from Association "Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus" is wonderful. It is available online at the aauw.org. (We will show a powerpoint presentation of this report regarding the major findings at Convention!)* C.V.



2006 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders—A letter from Ruth Z. Sweetser, AAUW President

Dear State and Branch Leaders,

You can support the next generation of women leaders by promoting their participation at the **2006 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders**.

This year's event will feature a **Summit on sexual Harassment: Leading Change on Campus and Beyond** and will **build upon the recent release of the Educational Foundation research report *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus***. The conference, June 7—10, 2006 in Washington, D.C. on the campus of American University, is a fabulous opportunity for students to enhance their leadership skills and to be introduced to AAUW.

Members are key allies in promoting the conference and there are several ways you and the members of your state and branch can help:

- * **Contact local campuses.** Share information with students, faculty and administrators about the upcoming conference and remind them about the scholarships or discounts available to student affiliates (10%) and campus delegations (15% for members and 5% for non-members).
- * **Sponsor a local student to attend the conference.** By providing funds for a student to attend, you can increase AAUW's visibility and influence in your community. To explore this option further, please contact the AAUW Development office at 202/785-3307 or development@aauw.org.
- * **Spread the word about the conference.** Share the conference brochure, flyer and website—<http://www.aauw.org/nccwsl>—or forward e-promos available from the AAUW staff at liti@aauw.org.

Candice J. Rigsby, a member of the AAUW Student Advisory Council, attended the conference as an active student affiliate of the Huntsville, Alabama branch. About her experience, she exclaimed *"I was able to attend what I consider a life changing event! The conference educated, empowered, inspired, and challenged me. I departed the conference with the feeling that I had recognized my own purpose, realized my own power, and began the pursuit of my own progress."*

Ensure that other students can attend this life changing event by promoting and sponsoring their participation in NCCWSL 2006.

Information on the conference is available on the AAUW website at <http://www.aauw.org/nccwsl>. If you have any questions about NCCWSL, please call 800/326-2289 or 202/7785-7741, or e-mail: liti@aauw.org.



!!! GREAT NEWS FOR CT AAUW !!!

Many of you may remember **Karen Houseknecht** who is a scientist with Pfizers in New London and who spoke at our 2005 convention. Recently Karen contacted the CT AAUW to let them know she wants to join as a Member at Large. In addition, she has agreed to serve as the CT AAUW Educational Equity Chair!

WELCOME and thank you to Karen. We heartily look forward to her contributions.



12th ANNUAL BOOK AUTHOR BRUNCH

AAUW STORRS-WILLIMANTIC BRANCH

TO BENEFIT THE AAUW EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006 AT 11:30 A.M.

Eastern Connecticut State University
President's Dining Room, Hurley Hall

PRESENTING

JANE ROBERTS

Jane Roberts from California has written her book about co-founding 34 Million Women for UNFPA. She is coming to Connecticut in March and Storrs-Willimantic Branch is fortunate to have her accept an offer to speak for our book author event. Please bring a friend so the good news about 34 Million Women can be spread to more women.

TICKETS: \$20 PER PERSON...INCLUDES A BUFFET BRUNCH
DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: MARCH 6

.....

Please make your check payable to AAUW Storrs-Willimantic. Mail to Sue Harkness, 322 Ashford Center Road, Ashford, CT 06278, or call 429-2822, or email seharkness@earthlink.net

You may call or email your reservation and pay at the door for your convenience.

Number of reservations @ \$20.00 _____ per person Total enclosed _____

Name _____ Address _____

Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

I am unable to attend but am enclosing my check to the AAUW Educational Foundation (tax-deductible).