



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

Promoting education and  
equity for all women  
and girls.

AAUW/CT

Fall 2001

# Nutmeg News

<b>Calendar</b>
<p><b>October 13—</b> Fall AAUW/CT Leadership Conference and Board Meeting Southern Connecticut State University</p>
<p><b>October 22—</b> "The Power of Women: Believing is Achieving" AAUW and Charter Oak State College The Water Club, Long Wharf, New Haven</p>
<p><b>January 26—</b> Winter Board Meeting Nutmeg News deadline</p>
<p><b>March 2 —</b> Coalition Luncheon Legislative Office Building Cafeteria</p>
<p><b>April 27—</b> AAUW/CT State Convention UConn – Stamford Campus</p>
<p>Maggie Ford, Editor Nutmeg News Email: maggieford@pipeline.com</p>

## President's Reflections

**Membership.** In Connecticut AAUW, women have increasingly hectic lives filled with continuing education, demanding jobs, and energetic families. We face a challenge of how to retain and involve these busy women. Many women maintain their professional memberships for business reasons. It is important for all of us to realize that membership in AAUW supports an agenda which we believe is important in our communities and nationally. It is important for busy women to know that they should support an organization that promotes women's rights in their local community.

When I became active at the branch, state, and national levels of AAUW, I set a personal goal to serve successfully while also leading a demanding professional and personal life. I hoped that this could be a model for others to do the same with their decisions. Somehow we must find a way to increase the involvement and contentment of the professionally active women in our branches and our state. Attracting new members and retaining current members is a tremendous challenge for us but is crucial to our vitality and viability in the future.

Each current CT AAUW member could make a commitment for 2001-2002 to bring to a branch or state meeting at least one new and interested candidate for membership. While it sounds like common sense, we must introduce this individual to others in the group that would seem to have similar interests, thereby creating a follow-up network. Then we must extend our commitment to contacting these potential members afterwards to ascertain whether they will join us in our mission by becoming members themselves.



Each AAUW member has different creative strategies for involving new people in our organization. Let's share these strategies with one another and let's use these strategies to fortify our memberships. Our mission deserves no less.

**Girl's Health.** Women's health and fitness magazines may not be the healthiest reading matter for teenage girls. Research has revealed that there appears to be an increased risk of eating disorders and other unhealthy weight-control practices among high school girls who were frequent readers of these magazines. In addition, fashion and beauty magazines are also blamed for presenting teenagers with unhealthy images of desirable body types.

In a study done in Utah it was learned that 11% of the girls contacted had used laxatives to lose weight, 15% had taken appetite-control or weight-loss pills, and 9% said they had made themselves vomit. That equals 35% of the girls contacted! About half of them limited their eating to 1,200 calories a day or less. While the authors of this study do not declare that the magazines caused eating disorders, they did suggest that these magazines might be reinforcing unrealistic body images.

(continued on page 2)



**Public Policy**  
**Mary Jane Janick**  
**Willadean Hart**  
**Co-Directors**

## Women In Congress

Women form a majority of U.S. voters, start most new businesses, make most health care decisions and act as the nation's primary caregivers and educators. And yet, the U.S. is slower than many other industrialized nations to elect women to our national legislature. It took 140 years for women to first gain admittance to Congress!

There are currently 74 women Senators and Representatives, just under 14% of the total. When women are elected, their victories are often largely due to the women's vote. What can be less American than a representative democracy comprised of only half of the population?

The 107th Congress includes a record number of women. Three states now have all-female

Senate contingents: California, Maine and Washington. Since all of the new women Senators are Democrats, they now make up 20% of the Senate Democratic Caucus, a significant advance.

The current House of Representatives includes 61 women: 43 Democrats and 18 Republicans. California has the largest female delegation, with 15 Democrats and 1 Republican.

Twenty-six states lack a woman's voice in both the Senate and the House: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Vermont.

## In Memoriam

Mary An Wheat, State Parliamentarian and member of the Stamford Branch, passed away on June 15, 2001. Mary An moved to Connecticut in 1996 from Aiken, SC, where she was a teacher and guidance counselor; president of the Aiken branch of AAUW, and active on the South Carolina Board of AAUW.

While on the AAUW/CT Board she brought a fresh perspective from her South Carolina experiences to the deliberations of the Bylaws Committee in its extensive review of the state's guiding documents.

She will be missed for both her insights and acute sense of humor.

## President's Reflections, cont'd.

What can we as AAUW members do about this? Well, we all know young women personally — grandchildren, children of friends, our own children, students, etc. We can engage them in conversations not so much about eating as about "body image." This is one of the topics that was discussed in the small group sessions of the Sister-to-Sister Summits sponsored by AAUW. Perhaps it would be appropriate for branches that held summits to do follow-up sessions with the girls (some branches have already begun that process). If your branch has not done a summit, you might consider trying one or scaling it down to a confidential discussion group with young women. AAUW has always been the leader in the country of studying a women's issue, evaluating the research, and then doing something about it. Perhaps, it is time to continue our tradition in this area of concern for our young women.

**Miscellaneous.** At the convention of 1999, AAUW honored a woman who is an Atlanta resident and an Academy-Award-winning actress, Jane Fonda. Do you know that Jane Fonda has donated \$12.5 million to Harvard's Graduate School of Education to create a center devoted to studying the role of gender in education? Yes, she has! A longtime activist in such areas as teen pregnancy prevention and human rights, Jane credits her more than 15 years of work with children around the world for opening her eyes to gender and equity issues. Fonda's gift will be used to establish the Harvard Center on Gender and Education, the first comprehensive interdisciplinary center at a major research university to focus on the subject. The center is expected to open in 2002.

Marcelline Barron, President



**Elected Members**

**Executive Committee**

President  
 Co-Vice Presidents Program  
 Vice-President Membership  
 Treasurer  
 Recording Secretary  
 Corresponding Secretary  
 Public Policy Co-Chairs  
 Educational Foundation Chair  
 Legal Advocacy Fund Chair

Marcelline Barron  
 Johanna Malinowski and Pat Pollack  
 Nanci Westlake  
 Betty Thomson  
 Candy Buebendorf  
 Jean Frame  
 Mary Jane Janick and Willadean Hart  
 Sue Harkness  
 Edie Zoltan

**Appointed Members**

**Nominating Committee**

Committee Chair  
 Members

Renee Lacourciere  
 Sonja Ahuja, Roslyn Manville  
 Deborah Rie, Betty Urban

**Equity Issues**

Initiative for Educational Equity  
 Women's Issues  
 Diversity  
 International  
 Leadership  
 College/University  
 Cultural

Carol Virostek  
 Susan Hoover  
 Teresa Boyd  
 Sudha Sankar  
 Peggy Hughes

Laura Einstein

**Communication**

TV Liaison  
 Nutmeg News  
 Public Relations

Hilda Rosenman  
 Maggie Ford  
 Connie Bennett

**Organization**

Parliamentarian  
 By-Laws  
 Historian Co-Chairs  
 Logistics  
 Advisor  
 Immediate Past President

Sophie Godward  
 Jean Bannerman  
 Gloria Stewart and Eunice Waller  
 Carol Buch and Peggy Vallerie  
 Ruthe Boyea  
 Jeanette Phillips

**Representation**

Coalition for Choice  
 Women's Agenda

Audrey Scotti  
 Joyce Kathan

**AAUW/CT  
 Board  
 of Directors  
 2001-2002**

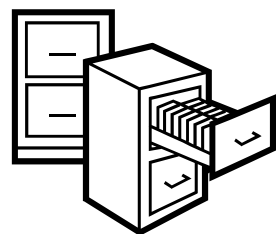
**Branch/State Records**

The decade of the 1990s is gone but its history should not be lost. Each branch can help to preserve its history by culling important items from its files and bringing them to the January 26, 2002 Board meeting. We will take responsibility for depositing them with the archivist at the Thomas Dodd Archives, University of Connecticut.

The following categories of records are appropriate to include:

- Board minutes
- Membership booklets
- Materials relating to the implementation of special projects/programs
- Fundraising
- Special recognition – awards/grants

Please place material relation to each category in a separate folder, identified by category/year. Place all materials being submitted in a box, labeled with the name of the branch.



**Co-Historians**

**Eunice Waller  
 Gloria P. Stewart**

## Convention 2001 - Austin, Texas



**Carrie Gallagher Sussman**  
**Past Association Vice-**  
**President for Program**

AAUW celebrated its 120th Anniversary at the Austin Biennial Convention in June 2001. With close to 1,000 members in attendance, it was a successful event with outstanding featured speakers. Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to travel in space addressed the Convention opening business session on Friday with reflections on her experiences and a book signing opportunity for her recently released autobiography, *Find Where the Wind Goes: Moments From My Life*. AAUW's new Executive Director, Jackie Woods, received a standing ovation for her welcome. Jackie is an outstanding addition to our leadership team and already has made effective changes at the DC staff level. As she returned to the office, she initiated a search for an Association Director who will join Foundation Director, Nancy Eynon Lark, and Legal Advocacy Fund Director, Patty McCabe.

Three accomplished individuals ran for the office of Association President: Nancy Rustad, Membership VP from Minnesota, Carrie Gallagher Sussman, Program VP from Connecticut and Chris Winter, past Public Policy Chair from California. Nancy Rustad was successful in this race and already has started her leadership efforts as the chair of AAUW's delegation to the IFUW Triennial Conference held in August in Ottawa, Canada. Two other CT leaders were elected at Convention: Paula Jean Yukna is Co-Director of Finance and Loretta James is Director of International Affairs. Our congratulations and pledges of support are with them as they begin their biennium of national leadership!

US Representative from Texas, Sheila Jackson Lee, was an outstanding speaker during our second business session and received a standing ovation. As she said, "... there is power in this room. *Tree Shakers and Risk-Takers!*" And, delegates did vote to shake the trees of the Association when they voted 1,297 to 231 to reduce the size of the Association Board from 21 to 12. Delegates raised concerns and deliberated this issue thoughtfully ... its impact will be to focus the board members on fiduciary and strategic responsibilities.

Sarah Weddington, featured speaker for the LAF event, received LAF's 2001 *Speaking Out for Justice Award* for her life's work launched in 1973 when he successfully argued the landmark case *Roe v. Wade* to the US Supreme Court. She was inspirational. Rita Colwell, the first female director of the National Science Foundation was the first of three speakers at the Educational Foundation's closing event. She was awarded the *AAUW Achievement Award*, our highest award for her life's work which currently places her at the helm of an organization that awards billions of dollars annually to support research and education projects. Margaret Burbidge, the 1985 US National Medal of Science awardee was given the *AAUW Founders' Distinguished Senior Scholar Award* for her lifetime of exceptional contributions to astrophysics. And, Melissa Gross received the *AAUW Recognition Award for Emerging Scholars* that honors an untenured woman scholar who has a record of exceptional early professional accomplishments and demonstrates promise of future distinction. Dr. Gross has an exceptional record of scholarship, teaching, research and service and is currently Assistant Professor of library and information studies at Florida State University.

The final session featured Juliet Garcia, the first Mexican American woman to hold the position of president of a US college or university. She is President of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. Dubbed on of the most influential Latinas in the nation, she is a board member of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans and the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching.

We closed Convention with a welcome to all for the 2003 Biennial Convention in Providence, Rhode Island. Quipped RI President, Judy Terry, "Texas was easy (to find) ... they have ranches the size of Rhode Island". We know it's just up the road a bit so let's all plan to attend AAUW's Convention in June, 2003.

Visit the AAUW website  
 (www.aauw.org) and read the  
 "Convention Daily" which was  
 issued each day of the  
 convention!

