aauw of Michigan

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FALL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 25

AAUW: A View to the Future
AAUW of Michigan Fall Conference
Saturday, October 25, 2008
University Club of MSU–East Lansing

Every AAUW state or association publication that I read these days is about our need to change if we are going to continue to exist as an effective organization in this 21st century. Ruth Sweetser, our Association President from Illinois and keynote speaker of our fall conference, will bring us a message on what the Association believes we need to do to reinvent ourselves in order to grow as a strong, effective institution. However, you as members of AAUW are the key to making these changes. Later in the day we will have almost an hour to ask questions of Ruth. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

The breakout sessions on Leadership Development are arranged so that we may attend each one. We are following a program prepared for us by the Association to help us better understand how to lead our branches in mission-based programming. AAUW of Michigan members are diligently working to bring you these sessions in an informative, stimulating and fun manner. We are adapting the breakout sessions as follows:

A) **Leadership, Education & Philanthropy**—Led by Carol Pyke, our state Educational Foundation Director. This will be a team effort and you will have the opportunity to meet Flora Myamba, an EF International Fellow from Tanzania and student at Western Michigan University. (She will also be a luncheon speaker.)
B) **Membership, Communication & Marketing**—Led by Sharon Belobraidich, state board Diversity Director, Mickey Edell, Initiatives Director, Janet Watkins, state Membership Director and Pat Jennings, state Communications Director.
C) **Advocacy and Legal Advocacy Fund**—Led by Jane Strand, former Public Policy Director and Lynne Haley, current LAF Director. Learn how to work with your legislators and have a political impact on women's issues.

Following lunch, we will be joined by Elizabeth Gasperich, a Northern Michigan University student whom the state assisted with attending our National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). She will tell us what attending this Conference meant to her. Also, Flora Myamba, an Educational Foundation Interntional Fellow, will share her experience at the California Conference on Women Leaders for the World. We also will have an opportunity to celebrate the AAUW's Educational Foundation's 50th Anniversary with a birthday cake for dessert.

You will enjoy the exclusive University Club of MSU in Lansing and we are grateful to the Lansing Branch for making arrangements for this conference site. Also a special note of thanks to the Lansing Branch for graciously hosting the Fall Conference and working very diligently to make this day a success.

When you come for the Continental Breakfast, come early enough to shop at the EF/LAF tables as well. Also there will be other times in the morning to look over the sales during break periods and support these worthy programs.

Action Step: Join us Saturday, October 25 at the University Club in East Lansing and bring your new members—this will be a great orientation to AAUW for the new and an invigorating experience for the long-standing and all those in between. The registration form and the program are printed in this issue on Page 7. See you in East Lansing!

Jan Emery
Program VP
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BE INFORMED!

Ruth Sweetser is requesting that members familiarize themselves with the following information on the Strategic Planning Process. Download it from this link:

http://www.aauw.org/member_center/StrategicProcess/index.cfm

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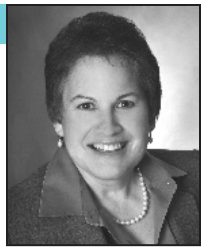
FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members, wasn't that a quick, but memorable summer? I don't remember when I enjoyed more long beautiful days ending with a spectacular sunset. I hope all of you were able to make some great memories this summer.

The beginning of the school year always means we at AAUW are starting a new program year and most of you have your programs set for the year…but please don't forget to utilize the Programs on a Page (POPs) developed by the state board for use at branch meetings. These POPs are designed to be used as a way to incorporate AAUW mission-driven information in each meeting. You'll be surprised how much information you can provide in just a few minutes.

We have a jam-packed year in front of us beginning with the Fall Conference, Saturday, October 25th in East Lansing. Association President Ruth Sweetser is our keynote speaker and we are extremely excited to hear what she has to say about the future of AAUW…but she also wants to hear from you. We've set aside the end of the program day so she can have a conversation with all of us. Please urge your branch members to attend.

I do hope you responded to the Association Proposed Bylaws. We should hear more about them from Ruth Sweetser at the Fall Conference and the final draft will come to us in the winter edition of *Outlook Magazine*. We are beginning to make plans to travel to St. Louis for the Association convention June 26-28, 2009. We're considering a bus trip if we have enough people who want to travel with us. We'll ask at the Fall Conference and again in the next newsletter.

We had a great turnout for the Women's Equality Day celebration in Lansing on August 24, 2008. You can see from the picture on Page 6 that many of our members from across the state, including the U.P., made a commitment to attend. We had at least 15 branches in attendance. From those of us who assisted in the planning of the day thank you for coming. Thanks to Vicci Knowlton, AAUW Lansing branch member and event planner extraordinaire, the day went off without a hitch *and* we had great coverage in the Lansing media. One of my favorite parts was the centerpieces created by Sharon Belobraidich and assembled by her crack crew, Mickey Edell, Doree Miller and Gloria Conn (thank goodness for kitty litter).

Our board members will again be making branch visits this year. We should have a proposed schedule after the fall board meeting/conference. I think it's important for the board members to meet branch members from around the state and learn about the issues that are important to you. Let us know if you have a specific issue you'd like covered when we attend your meeting.

Mickey Edell and Jean Jokipii are working diligently to keep you informed and updated on voter information. Please utilize the tools they are providing to help get women out to vote this November. As we all know, this is a very important election. We owe it to our foremothers who fought so long and so hard to champion the cause of women getting the right to vote, to get all citizens out to vote…but especially women. We know when women's voices are heard at the table the conversation changes.

I'll end with this from André Gide, "One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time."

We know change is challenging, messy, emotional and sometimes just a pain in the neck…but with change comes new ideas, new horizons and, hopefully, new energy for moving our mission forward.

Thanks for all you do for AAUW!

Kathy Banfield Shaw, President
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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP VP

Membership Matters

Ann Arbor and South Haven branches recruit and retain members through mentoring and marketing.

The backbone of AAUW is its members. I asked Ann LaCivita, recent past MVP for the Ann Arbor branch and Margery VerBeek co-MVP of South Haven to what their branches are doing to successfully recruit and retain members.

Ann Arbor Branch

"Our Member-Mentor program has been very successful in helping new members feel welcome and getting them involved in branch activities," says Ann LaCivita of the Ann Arbor branch. Ann Arbor's mentor program is the brainchild of past president Mary Mostaghim, who says: "It was because I was helped along so much by a long-time member of AAUW that it occurred to me that other new members might need someone to accompany them to first-time membership receptions, branch meetings and interest groups. I wanted AAUW—Ann Arbor to be fun and friend-filled as well as worthwhile for other new members as it was for me."

Some of Ann Arbor branch member-mentoring, recruiting and retaining activities include:

- New member/mentor mix and mingle party
- Asking branch members to volunteer as mentors for new members
- Email introduction of new members to Ann Arbor membership
- Providing new members with an interest group calendar
- Diversity initiative director hosts monthly networking luncheon
- Membership VP asking for names of prospective members
- Sending out information and applications to new contacts
- Writing to area members at-large
- Interviewing new members for the *AAUW Bulletin*
- Distribute interest group calendar in books at annual Used Book Sale

South Haven

South Haven, Michigan is located on the pristine shores of Lake Michigan and is one of the nation's most popular cities to visit and live, particularly for new retirees. The AAUW South Haven branch has strategically focused on the many new arrivals through a group called Newcomers. A for-profit group, Newcomers work with local merchants by distributing coupons and other information to South Haven residents and new homebuyers. Margery Verbeek, South Haven co-membership VP shared: "Merchants pay a fee to Newcomers Group. We asked them if they would include our brochure and information about our book sales in their monthly mailings. They agreed to do it free of charge." As a result, AAUW South Haven has gained increased visibility within their community capturing new recruits and revitalizing current members. Other South Haven branch activities that lead to potential recruits:

- Encourage members to share information about AAUW in their one-on-one contacts
- Distributing interest group calendar at book sorting sites and used book sales
- Encouraging interests group chairs to invite prospective members to join interest group meetings

FYI—
Redesign of AAUWMI Website

We have contracted BridgiTech to redesign the AAUWMI website and expect it to be operational by the Fall Conference in October. The redesigned website will be an informational resource for AAUWMI members and prospective members.

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FROM THE INITIATIVE DIRECTOR

NCCWSL

Just think of it! This June in Washington D.C., more than 500 young women leaders gathered to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. NCCWSL is a two and a half day conference to help students hone leadership skills for their work on campus and in their communities. This gathering was co-hosted by the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute and the NASPA Center for Scholarship, research, and Professional Development for Women. Themed "Leadership for Today and Tomorrow" the conference featured 50 workshops, including Campaign College, one of the first programs in the nation to train college women to run for elected office and to participate in student government. The conference also featured nationally known speakers to inspire young women to leadership roles.

This past spring AAUW of Michigan and a number of our local branches championed this venture by contributing funds or soliciting aspirants from Michigan to attend this event. Those branches offering support included Ann Arbor, Wyandotte/Downriver, Dearborn, Birmingham and Escanaba. Traverse City has budgeted money to assist a young woman in June 2009. AAUW of Michigan is extremely proud of these efforts.

As the new Initiative Director, I am very excited about continuing this endeavor. It is one that every branch can foster by making monetary contributions and searching for deserving candidates. Local colleges/universities are one venue, but let us also ponder this opportunity for our own daughters and granddaughters.

Just think of it! What if every branch in Michigan could contribute to this very viable project! What a better way of breaking through the barriers than training our young women and potential members to become leaders on their campuses and in their communities. Become instrumental in molding the future of our young women.

Mickey Edell
Initiative Director
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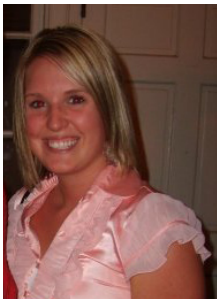
FALL CONFERENCE LUNCH SPEAKERS' PROFILES



Elizabeth Gasperich is a 21 year-old college student at Northern Michigan University at Marquette. Elizabeth attended AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this past June in Washington D.C. and will share this experience with us at our Fall Conference. She is beginning her third year at NMU this fall studying Electronic Journalism (News Broadcasting). Elizabeth also has completed a minor in Gender Studies. She learned about AAUW through a family friend who is president of her home branch in Iron Mountain. She completed an award winning Public Service Announcement college project about AAUW and the importance of young women and higher education.

Elizabeth's hometown branch, Iron Mountain/Kingsford, provided some financial support as well as AAUW of Michigan and the Ann Arbor Branch plus she was awarded a scholarship from the NCCWSL Scholarship fund. Many of our branches supported college women's attendance at NCCWSL this year, which made it possible for seven students from Michigan and elsewhere to attend the June conference. These branches are the ones we know about that gave financial support: Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Dearborn, Iron Mountain/Kingsford and Wyandotte—there may be others. I encourage you to check out this worthy program that our Association offers college women by going to the AAUW website. Then make sure your local college or university is aware of the program and consider helping someone from your area to attend. You also can contribute to the NCCSWL Scholarship program. Your branch EF chair will know how to do this or again go to the website.

Flora Myamba is one of our luncheon speakers at our Fall Conference. You will want to meet Flora because she is an Educational Foundation International Fellow, Doctoral student of Sociology at Western Michigan University and also a member of the Kalamazoo Branch. This summer with financial support from AAUW of MI, Birmingham Branch and her own branch she attended the "Women Leaders for the World" conference in California. We will discover what being present at that gathering of women meant to her. You won't want to miss her talk.

Flora is planning to graduate in December 2008. She earned her M.A. degree in Criminal Justice from St. Cloud State University, Minnesota, and a B.A. degree in Sociology from the University of Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania. Current research interests include criminology, victimology and research; specifically domestic violence and victims' rights movement and services in cross-national comparative perspectives. Her vision is to promote women's rights and prevent domestic violence through education in Tanzania and the world.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

PROGRAM IN A BOX: CEDAW

AAUW recently instituted "Program in a Box" and the first topic listed is CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. We have long supported United Nations programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns. CEDAW has been ratified by all but eight nations: Iran, Nauru, Palau, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga and the United States.

At the June 2007 Convention, delegates passed a resolution to work toward U. S. ratification of CEDAW; the "short" text is:

> **Recognizing that the AAUW Public Policy Program affirms our commitment to Treaty for the Rights of Women, officially the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the 2007 AAUW Convention urges its members collectively and individually to:**
>
> **1) Write and email their U.S. Senators to press for support of the Convention; and**
> **2) Participate in the coalition building efforts of The Working Group on the Ratification of CEDAW.**

You can access this Program in a Box at the AAUW website:

www.aauw.org/member_center/ProgramInABox.cfm.

See plentiful and varied resources for studying about CEDAW and the UN's Treaty for the Rights of Women. This document addresses basic human rights of women and can be a useful tool to:

- Reduce violence against women
- Ensure access to education and health care
- Provide legal recourse against violations of women's human rights

U.S. failure to ratify the Treaty undermines the powerful principle that the human rights of women are universal across all cultures, nations and religions, and worthy of being guaranteed through international human rights standards. As individuals, or as branches we can take action to encourage ratification of CEDAW for the benefit of all women worldwide.

Betty Chenoweth, International Affairs Director
bwinechen@earthlink.net

Recommended Books
by some of our State Board Members for your leisure reading:

Kathy Shaw, President of AAUW of MI suggests:
The Faith Club by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner

Amy Seetoo, District Director, suggests:
The Eighth Promise: an American Son's Tribute to His Toisanese Mother, by William Poy Lee, Rodale, 2007.

Deb Ensign
State Services Manager
MIAAUW2SSM@aol.com

MISSION-BASED PROGRAMMING FOR BRANCHES

Although our local branch Progam Vice Presidents and the programming committee are responsible for our annual programs, it is up to every branch member to support our mission. It is essential that all members become familiar with the resources and encourage this effort at the local level if we are to break through the barriers and continue to seek equity for all women and girls. The following are two important resources:

PROGRAMS ON A PAGE

Last year this project was launched by AAUW of Michigan. These short programs, referred to as PoPs, were developed to familiarize all of our members with those vital issues supported by AAUW. We hope that branch members will provide the creativity to incorporate these mini programs into the already planned programs. Let us renew our passion and use the power of our programs and projects to assure a fair chance for all women.

PROGRAM IN A BOX

Just recently the Association created a new programming tool entitled Program in a Box (PIAB.) This new tool is a collection of programs, which outlines an activity that members could choose for their branch with the "what, why, and how" to implement that program. These PIABs focus on a wide range of AAUW activities, including education, advocacy, communications, membership, fundraising, etc. and are available on the website at www.aauw.org.

Mickey Edell

BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

AAUW of Michigan members representing 15 branches attended the Women's Equality Day Celebration in Lansing on the lawn of the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame on Sunday, August 24, 2008. AAUW was well-represented!

See the complete photo gallery online via the Lansing State Journal: www.lsj.com

FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

At the June 22, 2008 joint meeting of the AAUW and AAUW Educational Foundation Boards, both boards unanimously supported "Breaking through Barriers" as the unifying focus for AAUW. "Breaking through Barriers" expresses the essence of AAUW and amplifies our Mission Statement to make clear how the organization will "advance equity for women and girls" and in what pursuit(s) we will apply our advocacy, education and research. Our unifying focus is more than a program "theme." It becomes the foundation, the rationale and the catalyst for program initiatives that address societal needs.

Studies prove that branches that facilitate programs and projects that break social, economic, and educational barriers are thriving where branches that focus on local topics that make a one-time impact are struggling. Begin in your own community. What barriers to women exist that your members are passionate about? Identify barriers and ask yourselves "How can we break through?" Ask yourselves "What can we do to facilitate change and make a difference?" Where there is a need, fill it. Advocate for an issue you care about.

In my travels throughout the Great Lakes region, I have listened and learned about many projects that branches and states are doing to break barriers. In Fort Wayne, Indiana, AAUW members have begun a mentoring program to help young women be successful in their lives. This program was written up on the front page of one of the Fort Wayne newspapers. In Illinois, AAUW members are working to break legislative barriers and have formed a "Lobby Corps." In Ohio, AAUW members are making history with "The New Little Book" that has been endorsed as an education project by the state of Ohio. This project appeared in the last "Outlook," Association publication. Another branch is providing childcare for young mothers while the women attend classes at the local community college. The branch even gave "AAUW" T-shirts to the women to wear. Who do you think will be our future members?

The Executive Director of AAUW, Linda Hallman, encourages all AAUW members to work on the issues that we can change instead of wearing ourselves out on inconsequential details. When we as educated women focus on what we CAN do, the possibilities are endless.

At your service,
Ruth Brown
Great Lakes Regional Director
travelgirl2@sbcglobal.net

Breaking Through Barriers: An AAUW Member in Action

"Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence's running for public office symbolizes and personifies the possibility for all women and girls to reach for and achieve our highest human potential.

I supported Mayor Lawrence when she first ran for mayor of Southfield in 2001. As a Southfield resident I am very pleased with the results of her leadership. So, when I heard she was going to run for Oakland County Executive it was without question that I was going to actively support her bid!

As an AAUW member, I believe it is vitally important to support women that demonstrate a shared passion to 'advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.' Brenda Lawrence's election to public office, like other women that run and get elected, means our issues have a voice at the public policy table. Moreover, women who run and get elected to office, serve as role models for women and girls. It says you can do it, too. It keeps pressure on the "crack in the glass ceiling." Thus, this is an incontrovertible demonstration of breaking through barriers for minorities and women."

Janet Watkins

AAUW of Michigan University Club of Michigan State University Saturday, October 25, 2008

AAUW: A View to the Future

AGENDA

Saturday, Oct. 25

8:15 – 9:00	Registration and Breakfast Shop EF/LAF Tables
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome: Kathy Shaw, President AAUW of Michigan
Opening	Girl Scout Troop Flag Ceremony - Pledge
	Joan Bauer, State Senator, 68th District
	Patricia Curran-AAUW Lansing Area Branch
9:15 – 9:55	Keynote Speaker – Ruth Sweetser, Association President
	"AAUW and the Future"
9:55 – 10:00	Introduction of Leadership Breakouts
	Kathy Shaw
10:00 – 10:15	Break and EF/LAF Sales
10:15 – 12:20	Three Breakout Sessions:
	10:15 – 10:50; 11:00 – 11:35; & 11:45 – 12:20 (Ten Minute Break between each session)
	A. Leadership, Education & Philanthropy
	B. Membership, Communication & Marketing
	C. Advocacy & LAF
12:20 – 12:35	Break & EF/LAF Sales
12:35 – 2:00	Lunch & speakers:
	Elizabeth Gasperich – NCCWSL
	Flora Myamba – International EF Fellow
2:00 – 3:00	"Conversation with Ruth Sweetser" & wrap-up

University Club of MSU
3435 Forest Rd
East Lansing, MI
www.universityclubofmsu.org

Directions are available at this website-Click on "About the Club," then on "directions and map" on drop-down box.

REGISTRATION FORM
AAUW OF MICHIGAN FALL CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY CLUB of
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2008

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (_____)_____

Email _____@_____

Branch _____EF/LAF Tables Needed_____

THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS WILL BE HELD.
ATTENDEES WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY
TO PARTICIPATE IN EACH

REGISTRATION FEE: (Includes Continental Breakfast and Plated Luncheon) Please check selection.

_____Hot Chicken Salad
_____Vegetarian Medley Ragout
_____Special Dietary Needs
contact (517)-337-9311

$50 $_____

All registrations received after Oct. 11 must include **LATE FEE** $10 $_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED $_____

No refunds for cancellations received after Oct. 18, 2008. Send this form with check payable to AAUW of Michigan to: Virginia Albright, AAUW Conference Registrar, 819 Southlawn, East Lansing, MI 48823
(517)-337-9311

For Hotel reservations, call the Holiday Inn Express, 2209 University Park Dr., Okemos, at (517)-381-7305 by Wed., Sept. 24. $89.00 + tax for rooms with 2 double beds.

ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY SEPT. 24, 2008.
Internet Directions: Google search for Holiday Inn Express, Okemos, MI, then click on "Directions".

aauw of Michigan

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Battle Creek, MI 49016

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

AAUW Vision Statement:
AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

The Celebration of Michigan Women
25th annual awards dinner
and induction ceremony

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Congratulations to AAUW Manistee Member **Carol Atkins** for being inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and Tom Wilson for receiving the Philip Hart Award!