



CONNECTIONS

STORRS WILLIMANTIC BRANCH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 2011

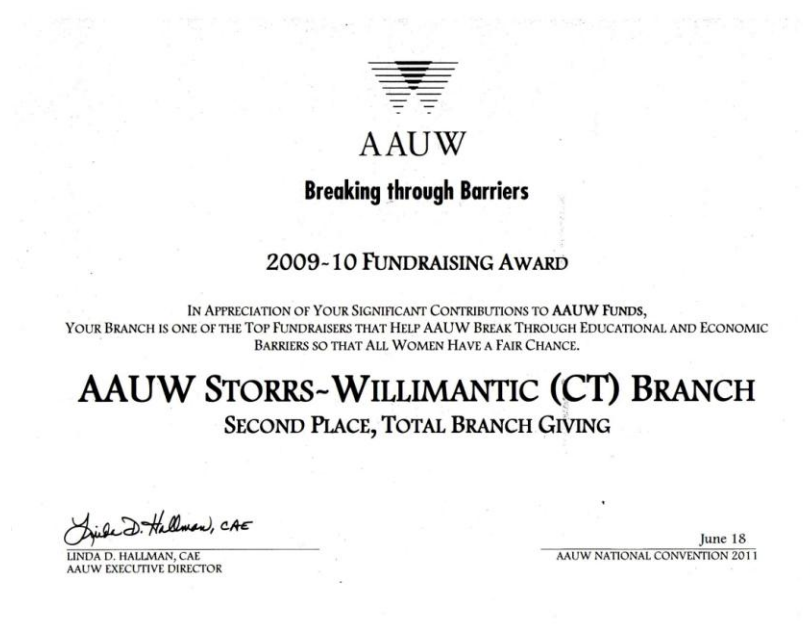
As our national and chapter mission of AAUW is **BREAKING BARRIERS**, we must continue to work on both the country-wide and local levels to insure educational and employment equity for all

As a group of educated, professional women we have a moral imperative to stand for equity of opportunity for all women. We must make our voices heard to assure that all women receive the benefits that we have so fortunately received. Granted our paths to success may have been difficult. Granted that many of us have had to overcome obstacles, it is incumbent upon us to assist in smoothing the path of opportunity for others.

Let us continue to work together to spread the word locally that AAUW will consistently advocate to advance equity for women and girls. Our support for educational opportunity, for increased employment and wage equity will continue to **BREAK BARRIERS**.

We want to thank you for your support of our mission of Breaking through Barriers. As you will notice on page 2 of our newsletter, our branch was honored at the AAUW National Convention. Nice going ladies.

Co-Presidents, Catherine Sampson and Jean McCarthy





June 18, 2011

Jean McCarthy
President, Storrs-Willimantic Branch
436 Bebbington Rd
Ashford, CT 06278-1615

Dear Jean:

On behalf of AAUW, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you and all of the Storrs-Willimantic Branch members for an outstanding achievement in fundraising.

The Storrs-Willimantic Branch was honored at the *2011 AAUW National Convention* for achieving **Second Place** among the Top Ten Fundraisers that help AAUW break through barriers for women and girls through **Total Branch Giving to AAUW Funds**. This is a wonderful accomplishment that clearly demonstrates the commitment of Storrs-Willimantic Branch members by generously supporting the mission of AAUW to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Top Ten Branch and State Fundraising awards are among AAUW's highest branch and state honors. We know that it is only because of the ongoing support and commitment of our members and donors that AAUW can continue to be a leading champion for women and girls.

Jean, again my thanks to you and all of the Storrs-Willimantic Branch members for their ardent efforts on our behalf. We are truly grateful for all that you do and all that you have accomplished.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda D. Hallman, CAE".

Linda D. Hallman, CAE
Executive Director

Breaking through Barriers

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IN MEMORIAM

Kathleen “Kay” Roan, 97, of Willimantic, Connecticut, died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on Monday, September 5, 2011. Kay was born November 24, 1913, and grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. She moved to Connecticut in her teens. She attended Southern Connecticut State University, and taught elementary school in West Haven, Connecticut. She moved to Willimantic in 1946, when she married Jack Roan, a local merchant and community leader, who died of cancer in 1966. Kay was an incredibly dedicated volunteer throughout her life, wherever she lived. In West Haven, she volunteered as an ambulance attendant. During World War II, she volunteered with the Red Cross overseas in India for a year. At age 97, Kay was still a Board member at Windham Hospital and Eastern Connecticut State University, the Treasurer of the Willimantic Housing Authority, and a Rotary Club member.

Kay is survived by her only child, Kaye Hamilton-Smith. In lieu of flowers, Kay’s daughter is requesting that contributions be made to the Kay Roan Scholarship Fund at Eastern Connecticut State University, payable to the ECSU Foundation and addressed to ECSU Foundation, 83 Windham St., Willimantic, CT. 06226. No donation is too small – it might help one student buy a much needed book. For an online memorial guestbook, please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com. Visitation will be held on Friday Sept. 9th between 5:00 and 7:00 pm at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Rte. 195), Willimantic.

Please wear a smile and something purple in memory of Kay’s passion for a good joke and all things purple! Her Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, September 10th at 10:00am, at St. Joseph Church, 99 Jackson St., Willimantic, CT. After the service, Kay will be laid to rest next to her husband in St. Joseph’s Cemetery – together again after 45 years.

CURRAN, Ann Marie, born August 21, 1927 in Willimantic, died October 19, 2011. A resident of Willimantic all her life, she was a devoted daughter to Winifred Moriarty Curran, a teacher at Windham Center School, and Eugene Curran, owner of Curran's Pharmacy on Main Street until his death in 1939.

After her graduation from Windham High School, Dr. Curran briefly taught at William Hall High School in West Hartford, and then went on to earn a Masters degree in Mathematics at the University of Connecticut, a fellowship at Bowdoin College, and a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Connecticut. Dr. Curran was a Professor of Mathematics at Eastern Connecticut State University from 1958 until her retirement in 1986.

In 1953, Dr. Curran took her first trip to Europe, beginning a lifelong love of travel, which took her around the world many times, including many remote and exotic locales. She had a passion for opera, which she enjoyed in glittering opera houses around the world, and was a devoted patron of the arts in Connecticut, giving generously to many arts organizations. Her active professional and civic involvements included the American Association of University Women, the Women's Club of Willimantic, and later, the Women's Club of Storrs, AAUP's Emeritus Society, for which she served a term as president, Theta Chapter of Delta Gamma Phi, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; she was a faithful congregant of St. Mary's Church. Ann will be remembered fondly for her friendship, fairness, generosity, and her wonderful sense of humor. Dr. Curran was predeceased by her dearly loved brother, Eugene Curran, Jr., and is survived by a wide circle of devoted friends and caregivers.

A visitation will be held at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Rte. 195) Willimantic on Friday (Oct. 21st) between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. followed by her Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Church, Valley St. Willimantic. Interment will take place in St. Joseph Cemetery, Windham. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Covenant Soup Kitchen, 220 Valley St. Willimantic, CT. 06226.

A note from Sue Harkness:

My family and I met Ann Curran when we moved to Connecticut in 1968 because she was a member of the math department at Eastern where Rex had been hired. She always took an interest in our family and celebrated many holidays with us, particularly Thanksgiving dinner, and showed her slides of the travels she had taken the previous summer. She was sort of a rudder to me, always listening and supporting me in every way she could. We were new to the area, and she introduced me to so many wonderful, educated women.

When I graduated from Eastern at age 50 in 1987, Ann gave me a membership to AAUW which was the beginning of my participation in the Storrs-Willimantic branch, holding several offices and really getting so much out of my association with all of the women involved in AAUW both on the state and local levels. Ann was a Life Member of AAUW. She was a generous supporter of the AAUW Educational Foundation, now Educational Opportunities Fund. She gave \$100 every year after the 2nd Century Fund was established in the late 1980's and she was a faithful attendee at all meetings and often at state conventions.

Ann's generation of women is nearly gone now. In the spirit of supporting women and girls, Ann established a scholarship at Eastern in memory of her mother for elementary education majors. I believe that if we want to keep AAUW a viable and growing organization, we all need to continue the legacy she established by her constant commitment and generosity to its mission.

LOCAL BRANCH NEWS AND INVOLVEMENT



The AAUW women's film series focuses on interesting women and/or women's issues. Many films are documentaries, some are historical fiction, and others are about women's issues in developing countries. A few examples are Julia (Lillian Hellman), Coco (Coco Channel) and The Maid (Chilean movie). Movies are always followed by discussion and light refreshments at different member's homes. Please email Lesley at [llesleyk at sign here yahoo.com](mailto:llesleyk@signhere.yahoo.com) if you are interested in joining us.

See what our branch is doing!!



The Storrs/Willimantic Branch of AAUW has been recruiting and sponsoring local High School girls for Girls State for about eight years. Girls State is run by the American Legion Women's Auxiliary at Eastern CT State University and teaches how government works while developing leadership skills and developing an appreciation of citizen rights. Girls can attend between their junior and senior years and are in residence at ECSU for the week.

At the September 14 AAUW Welcome Back meeting, two of the 4 girls our branch recruited and helped to sponsor joined us at Carol Kraus' house to tell us about their experiences. **Samone Jones-McCarthy**, a student at Windham High School, explained that as of last year the American Legion added a civil preparedness component that all the girls participated in. Samone volunteered as a police officer and felt that this was a beneficial activity. The students are divided into towns and cities where they conduct elections and support legislation. She was also impressed to see how enthusiastic her roommate was about writing cheers to encourage passage of the various initiatives that were presented.

Elizabeth Goodwin, a student at EO Smith said that Richard Blumenthal and Susan Bysiewicz were among the speakers that came to Girls State. She was very interested to see the process of supporting bills to be passed and the difficulties involved. Elizabeth was able to meet many other young women during the week. Both of these high school students will be active in spreading the word at their respective schools about the value of participating in next year's Girls State.

If you are interested in helping to recruit next year's attendees, please contact member, Lesley Kirschenbaum at [lesleyk at sign here yahoo.com](mailto:lesleyk@signhere.yahoo.com).

Lesley Kirschenbaum

Member Page – each newsletter we will focus on a couple of our members. Let us know what you are doing.



The Chuk Family

Artists in the Country started in 2001, when Ann, Michelle and Lauren decided to use their land to host artists, and raise money for children with autism. Over \$30,000 has been raised to date. **Ann** has been a Speech Pathologist for the public schools since 1972 and has worked for many years towards including children with special needs into regular classroom environments and to build their communication skills with their peers.

Ann has her 6th year in the field of Assistive Technology, which builds on her ability to help children learn in the regular educational classroom through the use of assistive technology tools when needed for learning to communicate. Ann has done workshops and consultations for families and teachers. Last year, Ann retired from full time teaching and is presently working part time as a Speech Language Pathologist in Ashford, CT and in Norwich CT.

To learn more about the exciting juried art show and sale visit Artist in the Country at <http://www.artistsinthecountry.org/>.



Ellen Marshall
Fused Glass





Education Opportunities Fund



THANK YOU to everyone who attended the Fashion Show Fund Raiser on Aug. 27th - it was great fun and a success! It was such fun for Sue Harkness and me to be among the 6 women who modeled some of the clothes for others to see. And of course it was wonderful for me to have both my daughters modeling as well! After the show, anyone who wanted to look more closely at the clothes and even to try them on had an opportunity to do so. Nancy Reif, the fashion Consultant gently shared her advice and experience in helping those interested to pick out what best suited their coloring, style and figure. Several people found just the right item and ordered it. (Orders have arrived at my home and I will be bringing them with me to the meeting on Wed.)

And THANK YOU to those of you who could not attend who sent in a check to support the Educational Opportunities Fund. To date, we have collected a total of \$680 - something our branch can be proud of doing! That may not be the final total as I am still waiting for checks from a couple of other people who had said they would forward a donation.

Thank you again to everyone who has contributed and participated. The Educational Opportunities Fund provides scholarships for women pursuing higher education who could not otherwise afford to continue their education, and these women always give back to community! A very worthwhile fund!

Pamela Thompson
Educational Opportunities Fund Chair



The Susan E. Harkness book award recipient this year was Jahaira Camacho (pronounced Ja-HI-rah Ka-MA-cho) from ECSU. The award was presented at the October meeting.

Legal Advocacy Fund

This year we will be raffling another basket to raise funds for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF).



As we did last year, donations for the “**Leisure Basket**” can be brought to the November and December meetings. We are looking for items such as candles, fragrant soaps or lotions, chocolates, books or a bottle of wine or whatever makes you relax.

Last year Joan Goba was the lucky winner of the beautiful basket.

Holiday Social

The 2nd annual holiday social will be held December 7th at Lesley’s Home. The cost is \$15 to help cover the food and drink expenses, with any remaining funds going to the food bank.

We will also be collecting food for the food bank. Last year, we were told that we contributed over \$1,000 to the soup kitchen. Especially needed are diapers, baby food, and special diet products.



Did you know?

Dinner is at the President's Dining Room ECSU



Please make your reservations early, **before the deadline**, which is the Thursday before the first Wednesday of the month.

The cost of dinner is \$19 which includes **appetizers, entrée, dessert, tax and gratuity.**

Payment by check is preferred. Checks should be made out to the AAUW Storrs/Willimantic Branch. Please remember that once we call in the reservations we are obligated for that number of dinners, therefore, if you make a reservation for dinner, you will be expected to pay for it unless you cancel before 9 on Sunday. Hope to see you there.



Did you ever wonder why we pass the basket around at our dinner meetings?

Well the reason is to collect funds to support our annual Sue Harkness Book Award. A check in the amount of \$200 is given to a deserving student from UCONN, Eastern or QVCC. We supplement these fund with dollars made from our annual plant sale which takes place at our annual pot luck picnic.

Do you have something you would like to share? Please send it to [newsletter](#) and we will include in the next issue.

Websites

If you would like to see something on the web, contact [Denise](#) Bachand. Minutes are posted on the website. **NEW WEB ADDRESS!**

AAUW Storrs Willimantic **website:** <http://storrswillimantic-ct.aauw.net/>



AAUW Storrs-Willimantic (CT) Branch



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What's Happening

Branch Meetings usually fall on the first Wednesday of every month. The cost of dinner is \$19 which includes **appetizers, entree, dessert, tax and gratuity** – a check (or exact change) is appreciated. The meetings are held in the President's Dining Room (Hurley Hall) at Eastern Connecticut State University (High Street, Willimantic, CT). Reservations are required and members are reminded that you must pay for dinners that are reserved. #39 on [map](#) – [mtg dates are in blue](#).

5:15 social – wine and cheese
5:45 speaker
6:30 dinner
7:00 announcements

E-mail us to make a reservation for dinner.

Oct 12: MOVIE night at Lesley's – **The Children's Hour**

Oct 15: Hunter College, NYC – **Anita Hill 20 years later**

Nov 2: **Antonia Moran**-member Mansfield Town Council and a commissioner for the CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

OUR NEXT EVENT

» **MOVIE NIGHT**
Wednesday, October 12

AAUW LINKS

» [AAUW National](#)
» [AAUW Connecticut](#)
» [College/University Partners](#)
» [AAUW on Facebook](#)
» [Member Benefits](#)

AAUW NEWS

» [Speak up for Fair Pay!](#)
» [Start Smart Workshops to Tackle Gender Pay Gap](#)
» [AAUW Expanding Work in Science and Math Fields; Applauds Latest White House Announcement on STEM](#)

Our branch e-mail address is [aauwstorrswilli\[need at sign here\]gmail.com](mailto:aauwstorrswilli[need at sign here]gmail.com).

Our state website is www.aauwct.org

AAUW National web site is www.aauw.org



DATES TO REMEMBER



November 2, 2011	Antonia Moran, recently appointed to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and retired Professor of political science at CCSU.
December 7, 2011	Holiday Social get-together at Lesley Kirschenbaum's home
January	No meeting
February 1, 2012	Mae Flexer, Democrat member House of Representatives from Killingly, Plainfield, Sterling. Chair of the Speaker's Task Force on Domestic Violence, she will discuss legislation that protects victims of domestic violence.
March 7, 2012	Mary Ellen Halloran, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and owner of Transitions Life Coaching located in Tolland. Mary Ellen holds an M.B.A., law degree, and a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology.
April 4, 2012	Huazhen "Molly" Guan, AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund International Fellow at Harvard's J. F. Kennedy School of Government, Master's in Public Policy, Class of 2012.
May 2, 2012	Elizabeth Fitzroy, adjunct faculty member at QVCC, will speak about her experience as a Peace Corps volunteer (2008-2010) teaching college English to prospective teachers in China.
June 6, 2012	Potluck and Plant Auction at the home of Del Anne Carey in South Windham.

Please remember to **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH FOR AAUW MEETINGS**

AAUW STORRS-WILLIMANTIC BRANCH REGISTRATION FORM 2011-2012

It would be greatly appreciated if this form/payment could be returned by June 30, 2011 or before.
Mail or give your annual membership dues of \$65.00 to our Treasurer. Feel free to share a registration form with a friend. The \$65 covers membership through June 2012. Send your check to:

Eugenie Bagley, 54 Ashford Drive, Ashford CT 06278.

If you have any questions, contact Eugenie at 860-487-0305 or email to eb[need at sign here]bagleytax.com

NAME _____

Fill in the following only if you are a new member or have changes to the info in our membership booklet.

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

(for new members only)

College/University attended _____ Date(s) graduated _____

Degree (last) _____

Please list the amount of any optional donations you wish to make. Make checks payable to AAUW Storrs/Willimantic. This year there is no increase in dues. The \$65 includes \$49 that we pay to the Association in DC. \$46 of the \$49 is now tax deductible. We send \$8.50 dues to the State AAUW and keep \$7.50 for our local chapter dues. Neither the state nor local dues are tax deductible.

Dues **\$65.00**

I would like to contribute to the fund to:

Subsidize dues for members unable to pay \$ _____

*** Add to the Scholarship fund** \$ _____

Total \$ _____

* If you would like to send in a contribution to the Educational Opportunities Foundation or the Legal Advocacy Fund, make your check(s) out to: AAUW Educational Opportunities Foundation and send it to Pamela Thompson at 659 Bailey Hill Road, East Killingly, CT 06243. Checks to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund should be made out to Karin Randolph, PO Box 438, Mansfield Center, CT 06250. Either of these funds are tax deductible. Your donations will be sent to the National AAUW for you. For more information call Pam at 860-774-5048 or Karen at 860-456-7116.

Give a Grad a Gift-Go to the Member Center at aauw.org to sign up a graduate for a free membership to the national AAUW organization. This will entitle the new member to access the areas of the site that are only open to members. They will receive the AAUW magazine and other info and can also join on line groups. They can also access a branch wherever they live and become a member by paying the state and local dues only.

NATIONAL NEWS

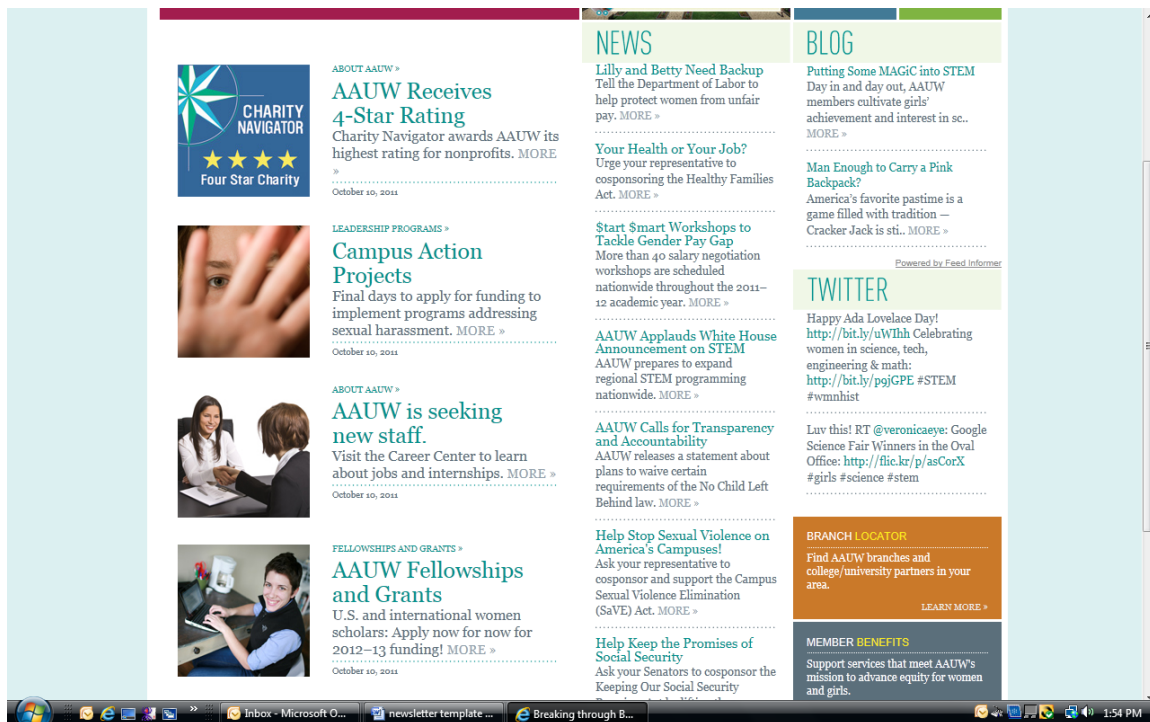
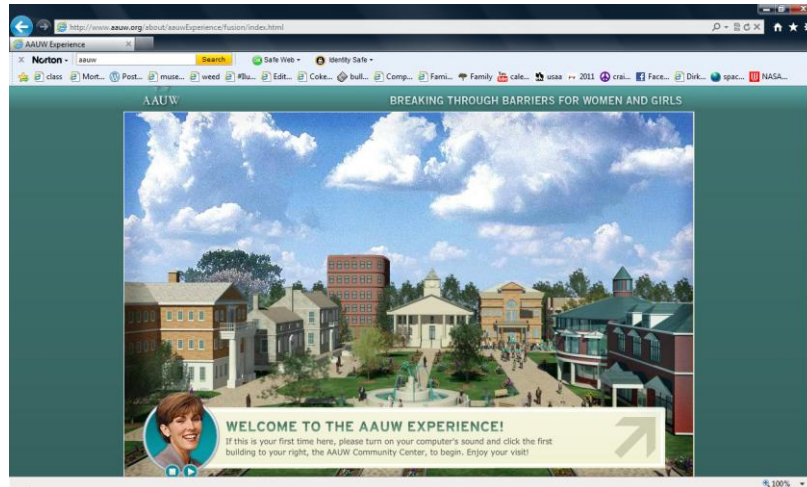


"What's going on nationally? Some interesting reading!"

AAUW Action Fund - <http://aauwaction.org/>

AAUW BLOG - <http://blog-aauw.org/>

AAUW on Twitter - <http://twitter.com/#!/aauw>



Denise Bachand, Publisher
Jean McCarthy, Editor