

President's Message

Our Storrs-Willimantic Branch of AAUW has faced serious ups and downs. On the positive side we have had successful, informative programs dealing with economic and health issues thanks to our program chair, Sue Harkness. As usual, the dinners served at our meetings are outstanding.

This year our Storrs-Willimantic Branches Educational Opportunities Fund and Legal Advocacy Fund had successful fund raisers thanks to the efforts of Pam Thompson and Susan Meisler. We have started to publicize our programs and other successes in our local paper thanks to the Kay McNabb, who volunteered to take on this responsibility.

Our Holiday get-Together was joyous. We collected food and raised a great deal of money for the Willimantic Covenant Food Kitchen. We had the opportunity to be with our friend, colleague and mentor Lesley Kirshenbaum. Her death was a blow to us all but her life should be a lesson to us. Live each day. Love your friends and family, keep them close. Support and work for your community

We have also shared the tragedy of losing so many innocents in the violence in Newtown, among them Victoria Soto, a teacher at the Sandy Hook Elementary School and a graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University. In memory of Victoria, our branch contributed \$1000 to the Victoria Soto Memorial Scholarship established at E.C.S.U. We share in the grief of so many who lost loved ones. (continued on page 2)

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Branch News

Spring 2013

The Storrs-Willimantic Branch decided to honor Victoria Soto with a \$1,000 donation to her memorial fund. I have talked with the president's office at ECSU and they are extremely appreciative of our generosity. If you want to make a personal donation, the information to do so is below. The donation is tax deductible. It was suggested that you write a short note letting the Institutional Advancement Office know that you are associated with the Storrs Willimantic AAUW Branch. Your donation will then be added to the branches donation. – Catherine & Jean



December Holiday Social

Terry Brown was the lucky winner of a beautiful shadow box quilt, an LAF fundraiser, donated by Susan Meisler's aunt Ann Kaver. Ann was so pleased to learn that our chapter raised \$367 in support equal pay for women, an issue with which she has had personal experience. Thank you to all those who made donations!



Memorial contributions directed to the Legal Advocacy Fund in honor of Leslie Kirschenbaum totaled \$665.

Our country may be at a crossroads. Women are making strides in employment, the professions and the military but we have a long way to go. It is our charge, our responsibility, to continue to work to Break Barriers.

This May, the State AAUW will hold its spring meeting at the University of Connecticut. Our Storrs-Willimantic Branch will help to host the event. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase our branch and to highlight the advantages that we have of living in the "Quiet Corner". We will focus, among other successes, our outreach programs. We will highlight our involvement with Laurel Girls State, NCWSSL and our numerous scholarship, grant awards and support of our local food bank.

We will need to have a number of our members at this all day conference so that we can meet and network with our state colleagues. We will need your help with displays and need your ideas. If any of you have been involved with a conference setup, please give us a call. We will be providing additional information at the time nears and will focus on possible activities at our April and May meetings.

Catherine & Jean, co-presidents



✿Changes to Membership Booklet✿

Scholarship Chairs--change to Catherine Sampson and Terry Brown.
Publicity Chair: Kay McNabb
Legal Advocacy Chair: Susan Meisler



Other News of Interest

Book Review

I've just finished reading Sonia Sotomayor's life-affirming memoir My Beloved World. She reflects on both the challenges of her childhood—life in the projects, juvenile diabetes, a dysfunctional family-- and the support of an extended family, circle of friends and mentors that helped to pave her determined path to become both an active community and legal advocate, and eventually our first female, Hispanic Supreme Court Justice.

Despite cautions against inferences about a predictable judicial philosophy, it's clear that she builds on the lessons derived from diverse experiences to consider both human context and principle in making her decisions. Her incredible drive and how she transforms obstacles into opportunities for personal growth make this an inspiration story. *Susan Meisler*



Would you like to attend an AAUW panel about findings regarding sexual harassment in public schools? LAF's Program Manager Holly Kearl will lead a discussion as part of a number of activities which parallel the meeting of UN Commission's Status on Women (CSW). The panel, held on March 6 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army HQ, 221 East 52nd St., NY, NY is open to the public.



National News and Links

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

AAUW

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

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



Congressional Voting Record

AAUW National Convention – June 9-12, 2013 in New Orleans <http://convention.aauw.org/>

<http://history.aauw.org/history-of-the-aauw-logo>

In 2013, AAUW released a redesigned logo with a descriptive tagline that reflects the vibrancy of AAUW today. It is designed to keep us on the cutting edge of communication formats and yet work well in traditional media, honoring our outstanding history while moving the organization forward into an increasingly digital age.



Your interests are important to us! Please tell us about them and help shape AAUW's programs and activities by completing this survey. It's easy-- complete the survey online at www.aauw.org/membersurvey2012.



If you would like to see something on the web, contact Denise Bachand.

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

Our branch e-mail address is aauwstorrswilli@gmail.com.
Our state website is www.aauwct.org
AAUW National web site is www.aauw.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING - PRESIDENT'S DINING ROOM ECSU

5:15 PM MARCH 6

Kathleen McGrory, PH.D former Dean of Academic Affairs at ECSU and president of Hartford College for Women, will speak about AAUW's relevance and importance in society today. Women of the Year Award – Lesley Kirschenbaum

MONTHLY MEETING - PRESIDENT'S DINING ROOM ECSU

5:15 PM APRIL 3

Starsheemar Byrum, Coordinator of the ECSU Women's Center and Intercultural Center, and Mala Maticin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology at University of Hartford, discuss the Shape and Taste of Feminism in 2012.

MONTHLY MEETING - PRESIDENT'S DINING ROOM ECSU

5:15 PM MAY 1

Huazhen "Molly" Guam, AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund International Fellow, Harvard University's J. F. Kennedy School of Government, Masters in Public Policy.

POT LUCK AND PLANT AUCTION AT DEL ANNE CAREY'S HOME

5:15 PM JUNE 5

Fundraiser for the Educational Foundation – bring a something from your garden, a dish to share and prepare to bid on something new for your garden.

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.



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. Please contact Ellen at **rogellepel** insert at sign **aol.com**

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 pm on Sunday.

Hope to see you there.



The **AAUW women's film series** focuses on interesting women and/or women's issues.

Our branch has a movie group that meets monthly on the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm. We meet at different members homes.

New Member Profile

Judy Watson

I am a part-time lawyer and human resources/payroll professional.

The main hobby and taker-of-my-time is maintaining relationships with my family members - both here and in Charlotte, North Carolina, as well as keeping current with an eclectic collection of long-established friendships I have gathered over the decades while living in various parts of the nation -- the old fashioned way and not through social media, when possible.

With a passion for cooking, and possessing an army of cookbooks and recipes, I periodically subject small groups of friends and family members to my amateur dinner parties while I experiment with new dishes. Hopefully, they are not pretentious gatherings similar to Hyacinth Bouquet's "intimate, candlelight suppers" and the food is edible!

Perusing small seasonal farm stands and canning its abundance for winter is a must for me.

Finally, hiking, gardening, writing, knitting awful-looking scarves (I am terrible with this craft) and spoiling my beloved pets are all high on my list of preferred solitary activities.



Claire Gates

First, let me say how lucky I am to have found such a great group of people with similar interests & ideas concerning the advancement of girls and young woman. I am privileged to become a member.

I live in Mansfield with my husband of 42 years. I am originally from Dartmouth, MA and graduated from UMass - Dartmouth with a BS in Finance. After college I moved to the Hartford area where I met my husband. We have two children and two wonderful grandsons. I continued my education getting an MS from Rensselaer at Hartford. I've worked at various times at the Hartford Insurance, American Eagle Federal Credit Union, United Technologies Research Center, and Pratt & Whitney, from which I retired several years ago.

I spend my time now with the friends I've made at the UConn League, volunteering as a tax preparer at the senior center, spending weekends at our condo in Bristol, R.I., and frequently traveling within the U.S. and Europe.

AAUW STORRS-WILLIMANTIC BRANCH REGISTRATION FORM 2013-2014

It would be greatly appreciated if this form/payment could be returned by June 30, 2013 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 2013. 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: ebthe 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.

Annual Dues \$ 65.00

I would like to contribute the following:

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

Contribute an additional amount \$ _____

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 sent to Susan Meisler, 4 Farmstead Rd, Storrs, CT 06268. 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 Susan at 860-429-8222.

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.