



President's Message

As we look back on the past year of Storrs Willimantic AAUW, it is reassuring to know that as a Branch, we have succeeded in forwarding the mission of BREAKING BARRIERS.

Our support of Laurel Girl's State, NCWSSL, the Elizabeth Jordan Scholarship and the Sue Harkness Book Award has advanced the learning and opportunity for young women of our area.

The coming year will be a challenging one. As we maintain our apolitical position in this important election year, we must still be aware of the threat to Title IX and the ongoing concerns regarding women's health, education and welfare.

Our outstanding programs this past year touched upon these important issues. Our program speakers discussed and enlightened us about the advances of legislation that protects victims of domestic violence, the dynamics of self-esteem and anger management and work of the Commission on the Status of Women. We had three speakers discuss their experiences in under developed areas of Africa and China. Our programs this year, described in the newsletter, promises to provide us with information and understanding of issues important to women of all cultures.

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Branch News



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. We have seen fabulous movies about women. Sometimes the movies are documentaries. We recently saw a PBS documentary about Eleanor Roosevelt. Another documentary was Top Secret Rosies about the women mathematicians who were in the military during WWII, calculating the trajectories of the bombs dropped in Europe. Our June movie was "Skin" about a family in South Africa caught in the time of Apartheid.

We were all in agreement that it was a riveting topic and an extremely well done movie. We have also seen Julia, The Children's Hour and Born to Brothels during the 2011-12 year. If you are interested in joining our group, contact Lesley at llesleyk insert at sign here yahoo.com.



The Storrs/Willimantic Branch of AAUW has been recruiting and sponsoring local High School girls for **Girls State** for about nine 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.

Girls State 2012: Laurel Girls State is an annual 6 day event run by the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion at Eastern Connecticut State University. Years ago our branch became aware that Boys State, also held annually at Eastern Connecticut State University had a much larger attendance than Girls State. We decided to help the Women's Auxiliary recruit High School women between their junior and senior years attend Girls State at the end of June. The program focuses on how government works. The students have opportunities to run for office, and participate in elections. They learn how to write and support bills. Each day State officials come to speak to the students about their jobs. Richard Blumenthal has made annual presentation.

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We shall also work to increase membership and broaden our reach into the community. We all need to work together to achieve these goals.

We wish all a happy and restful summer. See you in September!!

Jean McCarthy and Catherine Sampson,
Co-Presidents, Storrs Willimantic AAUW



National News and Links

[AAUW Action Fund - http://aauwaction.org/](http://aauwaction.org/) [AAUW BLOG](#) -<http://blog-aauw.org/>
[AAUW on Twitter - http://twitter.com/#!/aauw](http://twitter.com/#!/aauw)

Simple Truth about Pay Gap

<http://www.aauw.org/learn/research/upload/simpletrutaboutpaygap1.pdf>

33rd Connecticut \$60,168 \$46,004 76%

AAUW Delegation to China

AAUW, at the request of Ms. Zhang Lixi, the President of China Women's University and The All China Women's Federation, will field a delegation this October to learn about the role of women in contemporary Chinese society. This is a rare opportunity to research gender equity in China and meet with citizens to gain first-hand understanding of the role women play.

The delegation will visit Beijing, Xian, and Kunming and delegates have the option to extend their stay by visiting Tibet or Hong Kong. Please consider joining us on this important venture.

[Itinerary »](http://www.aauw.org/Delegation/index.cfm) <http://www.aauw.org/Delegation/index.cfm>

[Make reservations »](#)

Not an AAUW member? [Join now to take part in the AAUW delegation »](#)

[Invitation to AAUW members](#) to join the delegation to China »



Congressional Voting Record



Good Luck to our new Officers!

Jean McCarthy and Catherine Sampson-Co-Presidents have agreed to be co-presidents for another two years. Francine Hodovan will be our new recording secretary. A big thanks to Betty Urban who was our recording secretary for the past four years.



We want to thank Laura Tordenti, a Storrs/Willimantic Branch AAUW member for her work with the AAUWCT as a College University Partnership Program planning committee member.

In February 2010, she was appointed CCSU's Vice President for Student In February 2010, she was appointed CCSU's Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Tordenti provides leadership and support for various campus life programs and services.

She served as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs at CCSU since June 2008 and was Vice President for Student Affairs at Eastern Connecticut State for eight years. Dr. Tordenti also served as Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Plattsburgh State University, and, at Green River Community College, served in several capacities, which include Acting Vice President for Student Development and Marketing, Dean of Student Services and Enrollment Management, and Dean of Educational Planning and Enrollment Services.

She earned her Ed.D. from Seattle University, an M.A. from the University of Connecticut, and a B.A. from Eastern Connecticut State University. Dr. Tordenti teaches in CCSU's graduate program in Counseling and Student Development in Higher Education, is active in civic and community service, and is a member of many professional associations.



If you would like to see something on the web, contact [Denise Bachand](#).

AAUW Storrs Willimantic [website: http://storrswillimantic-ct.aauw.net/](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

POT LUCK & WELCOME AT KAY McNABB'S HOME

5:15 PM SEPTEMBER 5

Annual pot luck to welcome new members and kick off the new year.

MONTHLY MEETING - PRESIDENT'S DINING ROOM ECSU

5:15 PM OCTOBER 3

Susan Johnson, State Representative 49th District, will discuss the three committees that she serves on in our State Legislature. *"I am pleased that I will be serving on the Education Committee, Energy and Technology Committee, and the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee."*

MONTHLY MEETING - PRESIDENT'S DINING ROOM ECSU

5:15 PM NOVEMBER 7

Shannon Sullivan, Connecticut Girl Scouts. 2012 is the Year of the Girl. Girl Scouts are 100 years old!

HOLIDAY SOCIAL AT ARTIE & LESLEY KIRSCHENBAUM'S HOME

5:15 PM DECEMBER 5

Annual food drive and holiday pot luck.

MONTHLY MEETING - PRESIDENT'S DINING ROOM ECSU

5:15 PM FEBRUARY 6

Deborah Pacik, a Nationally Board Certified Acupuncturist on pain and women's health. She began practicing acupuncture in 1996, after graduating from the New England School of Acupuncture. Since then, her training has continued through apprenticeships with senior acupuncturists and additional certifications, including an advanced certificate in herbs for women's health. Her clients benefit from over a decade of experience.

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.

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.

Students run for election to attend the Girls State National Event.

Catherine Sampson our co-President and I were in touch with the Guidance Counselors at Windham High School, Windham Tech, EO Smith, in Mansfield and Coventry High School who were able to find candidates to attend. We are proud to be part of the recruiting and sponsoring process for this wonderful program. Through the years, the number of women attendees has increased.

We were able to recruit five area young women and are hopeful they will be able to attend our September meeting so that we can meet them and hear about their experiences.

The National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) - Referred to as nickwhistle: NCCWSL is an annual leadership conference for college students. It is organized and run by our National AAUW and held at the University of Maryland. The conference features awe-inspiring women as speakers and it is hoped that the college students will carry the enthusiasm of the speakers back to their own campuses and use it to further their leadership endeavors.

The Storrs/Willimantic branch helps to recruit and sponsor students from our three area colleges/universities, Quinebaug Valley Community College, Eastern Connecticut State University, and the University of Connecticut. We rotate our sponsorships through the colleges. The Connecticut AAUW also contributes to the sponsorship of the student(s) through a grant for which we apply.

This year the conference was held at the beginning of June. Two students from Quinebaug Valley Community College attended. Our representative from QVCC, Ling-chuan Chu, worked very hard to find students to attend who were willing and available. We thank her for her hard work and time. We are looking forward to having the two women attend a meeting in the fall to tell us about their experiences.

Sue E. Harkness Book Award: During our regular monthly meetings, drawing tickets are sold for the chance to win one of several gifts brought in by the previous month's winners. All of the money collected this way is used for the Susan E. Harkness book award. Each year for many, many years Storrs Willimantic has awarded a female student attending UCONN or ECSU some funds towards the cost of her books. Several years ago, the branch decided to name this book award after Sue E. Harkness because of her dedication to the Educational Foundation (now known as the Educational Opportunities Fund.) Then in 2007, shortly after AAUW opened its doors to people with 2-year degrees, our branch decided to include QVCC in the rotation for the book award. The award is currently for \$200 and is given to a woman who exemplifies deep appreciation for and belief in higher education.

Elizabeth P. Jordan Memorial Scholarship: A new scholarship committee was formed this year consisting of Catherine Sampson, Ling-Chaun Chu, and Terry Brown. The committee developed criteria for applicants and a scholarship

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.



Coming this Fall!!

Educational Foundation Fundraiser!!

More information to follow.



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.



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FUND NEWS

AAUW is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, and through its Educational Opportunities Fund, provides 278 fellowships and grants yearly to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the United States and around the world.

During the academic 2012-2013 year, more than \$4.3 million is going to a broader community of women in order for them to gain access to educational and economic opportunities - breaking through barriers so that all women have a fair chance. Fellowship and grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities. Through them, AAUW is fulfilling its mission of lifelong education, improving the quality of life for all and tackling the educational and social barriers facing women around the globe. Funding comes directly from contributions made by branches and individual members. *continues next column*

The Legal Advocacy Fund, which is a program of the

AAUW Education Opportunities Foundation, supports men and women in the workplace who are faced with discrimination issues, expands campus outreach regarding discrimination, and conducts gender based research projects. It is suggested that each local board donate, an amount that would represent at least \$5 per member, to the LAF. Our contribution came close to meeting the LAF goal.

NEW IDEAS ANYONE?

The local AAUW branch has been advocating new ways for its members to get together in informal gatherings to enjoy each other's company.

Currently some members have been enjoying Movie Night. The person who hosts the movie provides cake and/or fruit and coffee and tea. So far 4-5 of us have participated in this informal and informational setting. If the group gets large, we will see about moving to a library. People who are interested should let Lesley know so we can gauge the size of the crowd and decide if we have to move to a larger site.

Other branches get together for a book discussion group. Is anyone interested in belonging to a craft group, a book discussion, theater or a travel group? Two people can start an interest group.

Have any ideas? Call Lesley at 423-9590 or email her at **llesleyk** insert @ sign **yahoo.com**.



application which Denise put up on the AAUW web page as a link. Local financial aid offices were contacted to advertise.

It was decided to target students entering their junior year at either Eastern Connecticut State University or The University of Connecticut, with consideration to special circumstances such as an older woman returning to school or financial need. This year the \$500 Elizabeth P. Jordan Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jessica Lamey who will begin her Junior Year at UConn in the fall after graduating from Quinebaug Valley Community College this spring.



How We Raise Funds to Support Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)

The Storrs Willimantic Branch raises funds to support the Educational Opportunities Fund and a couple of ways. AAUW members are offered the opportunity to participate in fundraisers such as a book author event or fashion

show, and the June plant sale at Del Anne's. When AAUW became 100, some members of our branch started a Century Club. To honor and support the strong educational philosophy of AAUW, those members made a donation of \$100 each. Several of our members have continued this practice made this an annual contribution. 100% of all money raised in these ways is sent directly to the Educational Opportunities Fund. So far this year, 2 members of our branch each gave \$100 and we collected \$213 at the June plant sale, for a total of \$413. A general rule of thumb used to gauge how much a branch gives towards the EOF is \$25/member. Since we have nearly 60 members we are about \$900 short of this goal. Anyone interested in contributing to the EOF your contribution is totally tax deductible. Make checks out to *AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund* and send them to Pamela Thompson, P.O. Box 156, East Killingly, CT 06243 who will fill out the proper forms and send them on to National.

Watch for upcoming information on a fall fundraiser for the EOF.



AAUW STORRS-WILLIMANTIC BRANCH REGISTRATION FORM 2012-2013

It would be greatly appreciated if this form/payment could be returned by June 30, 2012 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: eb@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 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.

In their own words

Former members share their stories (from 125th anniversary)

I was fascinated by Dad's field - architecture and I wanted to do something in art—I wanted to be a teacher of art. I went to school in New Britain. I had friends who spoke Polish and I taught them English. To be a teacher who really understood their students, to me, that was a special calling.

I taught at UConn - imagine teaching GIs art history! I looked up the places where they had been stationed in the war and found painters from there to incorporate into my lessons. Later, I taught textile design and silk screening. I am proud to say that I was able to help my students realize their own talents. After my husband Ben died, I began to write poetry.

I was the membership chair of AAUW and later took on the role of historian, collecting articles and pictures about the Branch. I am proud to have established the AAUW Woman of the Year award which has recognized so many other wonderful women in our area.

My name is **Louise Johnson (1913-2009)**

School was a wonderful experience for me—a friendly place where teachers were helpful and compassionate. I guess that's why I always wanted to be a teacher when I grew up. I attended a four-room schoolhouse in Manhattan Beach, a section of Brooklyn, NY. I admired Eleanor Roosevelt very much-she tried to improve life in so many areas.

I considered raising my family my most important job. I taught for awhile but wanted to spend more time with my children. For 20 years, though, I volunteered as a docent at the Benton Museum at UCONN when the program first started.

In my time, I was President of the AAUW branch, President of the Storrs branch of the Hospital's Women's Auxiliary and President of the University League at UConn, where I now serve as Program Chair.

Two highlights of my life are having climbed mountains in Estes Park [Colorado] and becoming a Justice of the Peace and performing a marriage!

My name is **Gladys Tucker (1932–2009)**

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