



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN BRATTLEBORO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

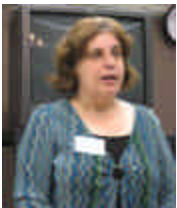
SPRING 2009

## Brattleboro Hosts State Meeting; Focus on Immigration

What drives people to leave their homes and settle in another country was the subject of the Vermont AAUW state meeting hosted by the Brattleboro Branch at the School for International Training.

“Crossing Borders” was the theme of the day that included presentations by Ana Rawson, the director of English as a Second Language programs in the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union; Edna Bartlett, who emigrated to the U.S. to marry the Vermonter she met on the Internet; and Mastora Bakhiet, who, with her husband and three children, fled the Darfur region of her native Sudan to take refuge in Indiana.

Also on the agenda was the Friday night screening of Bjorn Jackson’s DVD *Under the Cloak of Darkness*, a look at the undocumented Mexican laborers who are keeping many Addison County dairy farms afloat.



Ana Rawson

Rawson highlighted how schools provide for the children of immigrants through ESL classes and social services. She said those whose parents are undocumented (about one per cent) live in fear that their parents may not be there when they return from school, which inhibits their ability to concentrate on their studies.

Also, she pointed out through a questionnaire to the audience that schools are not allowed to ask for information such as Social Security numbers that would identify who is or isn’t documented; that immigration officials are not allowed to ask for data on students; and -- dispelling a myth -- that immigrants may not use any public services such as Medicaid, welfare or food stamps for the first five years they are in the country.

Bartlett is originally from The Philippines. She is working as an LPA at Thompson House and hopes to attend either Vermont Technical College or Greenfield Community College to study to become an LPN. She said that as a youngster she



Edna Bartlett

*Continued on Page 3*

## Carol Bellamy to Speak at Annual Dinner Meeting

Carol Bellamy, president of World Learning, is the keynote speaker for our 83rd annual dinner meeting **Wednesday, May 13** at the Putney Inn.



The festivities get underway at 6 p.m.

Bellamy brought a wealth of experience in the public and private sectors when she took the helm of World Learning in 2005. Before coming to Brattleboro, she spent 10 years as executive director of UNICEF, the children’s agency of the United Nations.

Prior to joining UNICEF, Bellamy was Director of the United States Peace Corps. A Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala from 1963 to 1965, she was the first former volunteer to run the organization.

Bellamy has also had a distinguished career in the private sector as a Managing Director of Bear, Stearns & Co. from 1990 to 1993 and a Principal at Morgan Stanley from 1986 to 1990. Between 1968 and 1971, she was an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

Bellamy also spent 13 years as an elected public official, including five years in the New York State Senate (1973-1977). In 1977, she became the first woman elected to citywide office in New York when she was elected the first female President of the NYC Council, a position she held until 1985.

Born and raised in the New York area, Bellamy graduated from Gettysburg College and earned a law degree from New York University. She is a former Fellow of the Institute of Politics at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and an honorary member of Phi Alpha Alpha, the U.S. National Honor Society for Accomplishment and Scholarship in Public Affairs and Administration. In 2004, she was named to *Forbes Magazine’s* 100 Most Powerful Women in the World.

And speaking of powerful women, we will be announcing this year’s branch **Woman of Distinction** at the dinner.

### INSIDE

Members Share Stories	-----	Pg. 2
Coffee Break Plans	-----	Pg. 2
Slate of Officers	-----	Pg. 2
Washington Update: Dues Info	-----	Pg. 3
Vermont News: NCCWSL	-----	Pg. 3
Message from the President	-----	Pg. 3
Then & Now: Equal Pay	-----	Pg. 4

### The Details....

The menu includes hors d’oeuvres, a choice of beef, chicken, fish or vegetarian entree, salad, rolls and butter, apple crisp for dessert, and coffee or tea.

The cost is \$32, which includes tax and tip.

Please call let Alice Carrier know by May 8 if you plan to attend. Please make checks payable to Brattleboro AAUW. See note on page 2 about dues for the coming year, a separate check.

## MEMBERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

Several members shared their personal stories at our March meeting in celebration of Women's History Month.

**Marjorie "Pat" Laubach** told of her many years as volunteer with the Red Cross blood services, including 45 years as co-chair. They have collected 150,000 pints since 1950, with an average of 110 pints in their once-a-month blood drive. In the month after 9/11, 165 pints were donated. Donors must be at least 17 years old, and the blood is checked six times before it gets to the patient.



*Jeanne Rueter, Alice Carrier and (seated) Pat Laubach.*

**Jeanne Rueter** grew up in Indiana in a family of seven, all of whom went to college. She had a scholarship of \$75 towards her tuition of \$500 at Washington University. She taught second grade for 31 years, two of which were in the school she had attended. After she retired, she worked for two years in the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program.

**Alice Carrier** always wanted to be a teacher. She taught for 31 years in the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union. She is very involved in Delta Kappa Gamma, an international organization of women educators with chapters in 16 countries, the newest in Estonia. She joined in 1982 and had a life-changing experience when she attended a leadership conference in 1986. Now, she is chair of the committee that runs the conference. She has served as chapter president, state president and New England Regional Director. She has served as second vice president and chair of the communications committee. DKG is holding its New England Regional Conference in Burlington in July, and Alice is chair of Vermont's local arrangements committee.

## LOOK, MA, NO BOOKS!

*Wanted: Bakers, Not Books*

We're taking a break from our annual book sale, and one of the ways we plan to make up for that income is with a Coffee Break at the Guilford Welcome Center. We have drawn Friday, July 17 in the lottery, a good date because of all the Friday northbound traffic.

We will be there all day offering travelers coffee, cold drinks, baked goods, sandwiches and other treats. We are not allowed to sell the food, but donations are (enthusiastically!) encouraged.



*The Guilford Welcome Center and a preview of our July 17 Coffee Break (with some help from PhotoShop).*

## PROPOSED SLATE OF BRANCH OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee would like to propose the following slate of officers, to be voted on at the May meeting and taking office July 1.

V.P. Publicity - Judith Myrick  
V.P. Membership - Vivien Prunier  
Treasurer - Jenifer Ambler

(These officers are elected in the odd years; the President, V.P. for Program and Secretary in the even years.)

## SOMEONE GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE?

*Give that Graduate the Gift of AAUW -- Free!*

A friend of mine just completed her B.S. and is so proud of her accomplishment after all the years she's been going to school, so I went online to AAUW.org, clicked on Join/Renew and signed her up through the Give-A-Grad-A-Gift program. (The direct link is <https://svc.aauw.org/join/gradgift.cfm>)



The information you'll need is her name, address, telephone, e-mail (if you have it), college she attended, degree received, graduation year, your name, etc., including member i.d. number. You can find the latter at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), then Member Center, then Member Services Database.

If you don't have computer access, ask another member to print out the application for you. -- LL

## Some Things We Learned About Immigration

--More immigrants -- 10.3 million -- entered the U.S. in the past seven years than in any other seven-year period in American history. More than half are undocumented immigrants who come from Mexico and Central America.

-- About a million documented and undocumented immigrants come the U.S. each year.

-- There are 21,410 immigrants in Vermont. (2007)

-- There are 38,059,694 immigrants in the U.S., an all-time high. (2007)

-- According to the U.S. Census, the top three countries of heritage of Vermont's 620,000 residents are England, France and Ireland, followed by Germany and French Canada.

-- In 2007, 40 percent of U.S. students in K-12 were minorities (Hispanic, black, Asian-American, other).

-- By 2042, minorities will be the majority in the overall U.S. population.

-- There are 130 students of English as a Second Language in our local schools, representing 23 different languages.

-- In 1887, Vermont's Justin Morrill argued that an influx of uneducated foreigners would lower the general level of literacy in the U.S. He claimed southern and eastern Europeans comprised a class of "outcasts and criminals ... imbeciles, idiots and lunatics." (Rutland Herald, March 6, 2009)



always dreamed of coming to the U.S. but never thought it would be possible. She is polishing up her very good English by taking classes at Vermont Adult Learning. She was encouraged to apply for a Brattleboro Branch scholarship.

Bakhiet told of her family's fleeing the Sudan four years ago amid the killings, rapes and burning of villages that is being carried out under the direction of the government in Khartoum. She said the discovery of oil has led the Chinese government to provide military aid to the government in exchange for access to the oil, with Khartoum hiring the Janjaweed to drive the villagers out of the oil-rich area of Darfur.

Bakhiet and two other women in Fort Wayne, Indiana, have formed a group called Darfur Women Peace and Development Network to provide economic development, civil society and capacity building, and women's empowerment to women in Darfur. She keeps up with what is happening through contact with her mother, sisters and other relatives who are still there.

This year, Mastora has left her husband with the children (a culturally new role for him) while she works on a master's degree in intercultural services, with a focus on leadership and management, at SIT. Brattleboro AAUW hopes to put her in contact with the Fort Wayne AAUW Branch when she returns home at the end of May. She said one of the group's biggest needs is help with office procedures, management and technical assistance since they are all very new to organizing and advocating.



Mastora Bakhiet in traditional Sudanese dress with, from left, Andrea Weisberg, Vermont AAUW president, Louise Luring, and Susan Stein, Brattleboro president.

### DUES TO BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Assuming the delegates to the national convention pass the proposed bylaws changes to make AAUW a 501(c)(3) organization for its major activities and a 501(c)(4) organization for its lobbying activities, \$46 of your \$49 national dues will be eligible to be deducted from your income tax as a charitable contribution. The total for dues is \$62: \$49 national, \$7 state and \$6 for branch. That check should be written separately from your dinner check, also payable to Brattleboro AAUW. Dues are due in Washington July 1, so Jenifer would appreciate having them well before that. Thanks.

### VERMONT NEWS...

Vermont AAUW is sponsoring two Middlebury College students to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland this June. Sydney Alfonso and Ashley Cheung have won high praise from Middlebury Branch members for their involvement with the Branch's Sister-to-Sister program that works with middle school girls.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Susan has announced that she will be going to Palmerston North, a city on the North Island of New Zealand, to work in a hospital there for nine months, leaving in August. We wish her well. The board will be meeting soon to work out an interim leadership plan.



North Palmerston as seen from the hospital.

### !ADELANTE! UPCOMING BOOKS

The group meets at 1:15 p.m., usually the third Thursday, for a lively discussion and socializing. Everyone welcome! Note: Dates subject to change due to holidays, weather and other vagaries. Let Louise know if you would like to receive notice of the meetings.

Thurs., May 21 *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri

Thurs., June 18 *In the Eye of the Storm: Swept Into the Center by God* by Gene Robinson

Thurs., July 16 *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Thurs., Aug. 20 *Free Food for Millionaires* by Min Jin Lee

### BRATTLEBORO BRANCH OFFICERS

- President — Susan Stein
- Co-vice Presidents for Program — Alice Carrier & Cynthia Terzariol
- Third Vice President (Publicity) — Judith Myrick
- Second Vice President (Membership) — Marion Daley
- Treasurer — Jenifer Ambler
- Secretary — Mary Hawkes

## THEN...



President Kennedy signs the Equal Pay Equity Act in 1963 as BPW President Minnie Miles (fifth from right) and BPW members, two (male) Congressmen and Vice-President Johnson look on. At the time, full-time working women were paid on average 59 cents to the dollar earned by their male counterparts, according to government data.

At the White House signing ceremony, President Kennedy said the EPA: "*Adds to our laws another structure basic to democracy*" and "*affirms our determination that when women enter the labor force they will find equality in their pay envelope.*"

The EPA is the oldest workplace civil rights law enforced by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), predating passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 by one full year. The EPA prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the payment of wages or benefits, where men and women perform work of similar skill, effort, and responsibility for the same employer under similar working conditions.

## ... and Now



President Obama signs the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act January 29, 2009. Ledbetter (fourth from left) and five (female) and four (male -- including Senator Leahy) equal pay advocates from Congress look on. On average, women still only earn 78 percent of what men earn. At the top of the AAUW ranking is Vermont, where female college graduates age 25 or older make 87 percent of what male college graduates that age earn. At the bottom is Louisiana, where women college graduates age 25 or older are paid just 65 percent of what their male counterparts are paid. (*AAUW Web site*)

