



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN BRATTLEBORO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

SPRING 2011

One Member, One Vote

*We Have Our Say in the Future of AAUW
and its Leaders*

Delegates at the 2009 AAUW National Convention approved changes to the AAUW Bylaws that enable all AAUW members (whether or not they attend the convention) to elect candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors and vote on other items of business such as bylaws amendments, resolutions, and the Public Policy Program.

This is an especially important development for Vermont and New Hampshire members because we have often been underrepresented at conventions. Now we will have an equal voice!

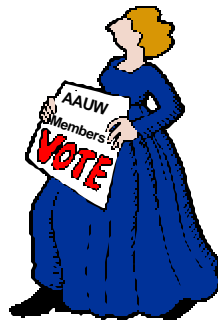
One Member, One Vote provides all national members, including life members, whose dues are current, the opportunity to have a personal voice in the process of directing the future of AAUW and selecting its leaders.

By now, you should have received your ballot. It is coded with your membership number and a PIN number. Voting begins May 1 and can be done by paper ballot or online by logging on to the **One Member, One Vote** section on the AAUW Web site.

Written ballots need to be postmarked by May 31, and online voting ends June 17 at 9 p.m.

Not sure which way to vote? Profiles of the candidates and information about the issues are available on the Web site or in the Spring/Summer convention issue of *AAUW Outlook* magazine.

If you need help, let your branch leaders know. This is too exciting an opportunity to pass up!



BREAKING NEWS!

Women pass men in advanced degrees for first time, gaining new access to jobs away from home
Read about it in a *Washington Post* story at <http://wapo.st/i41ROv>

HONOREE TO BE ANNOUNCED -- This year's Educational Foundation honoree will be announced at the annual dinner.

Vulnerable Students: How Do We Help Them Succeed in College?

85th Annual Meeting to Feature Southern Vermont College President Karen Gross

Learning challenges, differing physical abilities, lack of parental support, cultural limitations, and financial stresses are some of the problems students bring with them when they enroll in college.



President Karen Gross

How students with special needs can have success in their college experience is the topic of the talk by Karen Gross, president of Southern Vermont College, at the 85th annual meeting of the Brattleboro Branch, Tuesday, May 10 at the Putney Inn, with cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. (See menu details below.)

President Gross has been president of SVC, a small, private, affordable, four-year college located in Bennington since 2006. Raised in New England, she is a cum laude graduate of Smith College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a cum laude graduate of Temple University School of Law, having spent her final year of law school at the University of Chicago. Prior to entering legal academia, she taught at the high school and college levels and practiced law in Chicago and New York.

She received the 2004 AAUW Educational Foundation Senior Scholars Special Commendation of Honor.

THE MENU -- Entrée choices: salmon, beef, chicken or vegetable pasta. \$36 Reservations should be made by May 5 (Cinco de mayo) with Marion Daley. Significant others and friends are welcome.

DUES DUE -- July 1 is the deadline for payment of dues (\$62, of which \$46 is tax deductible). Members are encouraged to bring their dues to the annual meeting. Otherwise, they should be sent to Jenifer Ambler.

NEWS ABOUT THE BOOK SALE

Set up: Aug. 2 & 3 Sale dates: Aug. 4 - 6

Memorial Hall at Centre Church has been reserved for Tuesday, August 2 at 1:30 pm (after Loaves & Fishes) through Saturday, August 6 at 5:00 pm. Preliminary publicity has been emailed to book dealers for the usual Thursday - Saturday sale hours.

I have had an inquiry from Keene: They have stopped accepting books for their sale due to running out of space (apparently they no longer have access to that town-owned space), and they want to know if we are willing to accept books.

If so, they will need an email address, phone number, and/or drop-off site. I'm willing to give my email and phone, but I'm not sure if we want to start taking books in anywhere (where?) yet. As soon as my garage is minus one car, I can start storing books there, but that may be another week or two.

The good news: I already have someone seriously interested in our leftovers!

-- Jenifer Ambler

EMILY WELCOMES AAUW

The spirit of Emily Dickinson recently welcomed a small group of our branch members to her former home in Amherst, Mass.

Even though she died in 1886, her presence is still felt in the light-filled rooms, especially in the corner bedroom where she wrote many of her 1,800 poems while seated at a small table. There, they were discovered by her sister where Emily had stored them in the bottom drawer of her dresser.



*Emily Dickinson
c. 1846 or 1847
The only verified photo.*

*They shut me up in Prose –
As when a little Girl
They put me in the Closet –
Because they liked me "still" –*

*Still! Could themself have peeped –
And seen my Brain – go round –
They might as wise have lodged a
Bird
For Treason – in the Pound –*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome two new members!

Christine T. Grele of Westminster West teaches art at Landmark College. She has a B.A. in Visual Arts from Antioch College and an M.Ed. in Elementary Education from Antioch New England Graduate School.

Pat Halloran of Newfane is director of Academic and Career Advising at Keene State College. She has a B.A. from Boston College and a M.Ed. from KSC.

TID BITS

- We have applied for another Coffee Break fundraiser date at the Welcome Center in Guilford and have been awarded the date of Friday, September 23.
- The Adelante book group meets Thursday, May 19 at 1:15 p.m. to discuss *Wooden Fish Songs* by Ruthanne Lum McCunn. Next book: *Aquamarine* by Carol Anshaw Thursday, June 16.
- Susan Wade (PhD. New York U., 2007), a history professor at Keene State, has been awarded an AAUW American Fellowship. Her teaching fields include women and gender in medieval European culture and society, religion and the formation of social identity in the Middle Ages, and cross cultural contact between medieval European societies and the medieval Muslim world.
- Branch member and optometrist Jenifer Ambler spent a week in February fitting donated eyeglasses to rural residents of El Salvador. Her daughter Kate accompanied her for the fourth time.

Supreme Court Hears Wal-Mart Discrimination Case

On March 29, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in what may become the largest class-action lawsuit in U.S. history. The plaintiffs in *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* allege gender discrimination in pay and promotion practices in Wal-Mart's retail stores. The Supreme Court will decide whether the plaintiffs can bring the case as a class action—current and former Wal-Mart and Sam's Club employees named in the case number approximately 1.6 million. If the plaintiffs are successful, the allegations of discrimination will then be heard by a lower court. AAUW signed on to an amicus "friend of the court" brief in the case, and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is providing financial support to defray the expenses of six of the lead plaintiffs.

-- from AAUW Outlook, Spring/Summer 2011 issue

The Gender Gap in Vermont (U.S. Census 2009)

Men	Women	Earnings Ratio
\$45,234	\$35,276	78%
Rank among states: 21		