



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

BRATTLEBORO BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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

WINTER 2009

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Branch Members To Tell Their Stories

Our annual celebration of Women's History Month will be **Wednesday, March 11 at noon at Bickford's** restaurant. It is always a treat to learn about the lives of our members, the adventures and experiences that are their own personal histories. Please let Marion Daley know by March 7 if you plan to attend.

Women Honored for Efforts to Save the Planet

The theme of this year's National Women's History Project celebration is "Women: Taking the Lead to Save the Planet." Among the women being honored for their contributions are two women with special connections to our area:

-- **Mollie Beattie** (1947-1996), a former resident of Grafton, was the first woman to head the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, which enforces wildlife laws and administers the Endangered Species Act. Beattie oversaw the successful reintroduction of the gray wolf into the northern Rocky Mountains. To recognize her extraordinary work in the field of conservation, Congress named a wilderness area in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in her honor.



Mollie Beattie

-- **Ellen Swallow Richards** (1842-1911) Besides being one of the founders of AAUW and related to our own Louise Ripley, Richards was the first American woman to earn a degree in chemistry, a pioneer in applying scientific principles to domestic situations such as nutrition, physical fitness, sanitation, and efficient home management, and creator of the field of home economics. She undertook the first scientific water quality studies in America and is called the founder of ecology.



Ellen Swallow Richards

More amazing honorees can be found at www.nwhp.org/whm/honorees.php

HOME HELPED "FRIENDLESS WOMEN" Lund Family Center Topic of February Meeting

The Lund Family Center in Burlington focuses on strengthening families, reducing child abuse and neglect, and helping to create new families through adoption.

We will learn about this 116-year-old institution that began as "The Home for Friendless Women" at our the branch meeting **Tuesday, Feb. 10* at 1 p.m. at the Marlboro Graduate Center** when Cristie Manchester, Teen Pregnancy Prevention outreach specialist, speaks. With the Center for nine years, she works with schools and groups in Vermont, parts of New Hampshire and New York.

Michelle Colburn has also been invited to attend to give an update on her work for Lund as a recruiter and organizer for Awareness Events held several times each month throughout southern Vermont.

The result of the efforts of ten compassionate, resourceful Vermont women to find a way to help socially abused and rejected women, the Home has provided residential and adoption programs for women and families, adapting its mission and programs over the years as societal norms have changed. *(See note below.)*

In 1928, the center's name was changed to the Elizabeth Lund Home in honor of one of its earliest supporters. Now the Lund Family Center, it was named one of the first parent/child centers in the state.

Since 2007, the Home's bright, newly renovated space allows for 26 pregnant and parenting young women, and their children, to receive comprehensive, therapeutic residential treatment.

Learn more about the center at www.lundfamilycenter.org
*Snow date: Feb. 17.

Directions: The MGC is located next to the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center on Vernon Road. There is parking there. We will be in room 2E.



Note: Members of the !Adelante! book group read a poignant book about pregnant, unmarried young women who were often shipped off by their families to homes such as the Lund Home in the decades after W.W. II. It will be interesting to learn how Lund Home programs have changed since those days and how adoption laws have also been revised.

The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades Before Roe v. Wade by Ann Fessler

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BRANCH LOSES VALUED MEMBER

The Brattleboro Branch lost a valued member with the death of Betsey B. Douglas January 6 at the age of 90.

Betsey joined the branch in 1949, nine years after graduating from Middlebury College and shortly after moving back to Brattleboro, her hometown.

Active in her community, Betsey volunteered with the Scouts, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Holton Memorial Home, and the Red Cross.

She also served on the school board and was on the first board of the Brattleboro Area Drop-in Center. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, which she served faithfully from her childhood.

She was also actively involved in the family business, Hogback Mountain Enterprises.

A 59-year member of AAUW, Betsey served as president (1953-54) and was a faithful attendee at meetings until recent years.



Betsey B. Douglas

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS !

Vivian Prunier recently moved to Westminster West from the D.C. area, where she worked for the EPA. She is a 1969 graduate of Chatham College in Pittsburgh, received her doctorate from Georgetown University in 1974 and a master's in Public Policy from the University of Maryland at College Park in 2001.

Linda B. Gallahan is also a recent arrival, coming from Oregon, where she was an assistant professor of psychology at Pacific University. She has a B.S. from the College of Charleston (1985) and master's (1990) and doctoral (1993) degrees from the University of Southern California. She is the author of the chapter "Research and the Conceptual Approaches to the Understanding of Gender" in *Issues in the Psychology of Women* (2000).

Linda Gallup, our Mature Woman scholarship winner, lives in Brookline. She has an associate's degree in art and graphic design and is working towards a bachelor's degree in education in the Johnson State College External Degree Program. In her free time, she creates needle-felted wool fiber sculptures and is a member of the Vermont Crafts Council.

VT COMMISSION REPORT AVAILABLE

The Vermont Commission on Women's 2009 report *The Status of Women and Girls in Vermont* is available on line at the commission's Web site www.women.state.vt.us.

It includes information compiled by commissioners about Leadership and Public Life; Economic Security and Equity; Health, Safety and Civil Rights; and Education and Human Development.

Some interesting data:

- Vermont is third (after Colorado and New Hampshire) in the percentage of females in the state legislature;
- the gender wage gap in Vermont is 81.5%;
- more than 57% of private Vermont employers offer no paid sick leave;
- 1 in 20 female teens reported considering suicide every day (VCW/Vermont Girl Scout Council survey);
- lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Vermont women;
- 64% of all Vermont homicides in 2007 were domestic violence related;
- more women than men have bachelor's degrees;
- on average, female college graduates in Vermont earn about the same as male high school graduates and 67.6 % less than male college graduates.

There's still work to be done!

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY...

Betsey Douglas's remarkable length of membership in AAUW is certainly something to celebrate. The strength of our organization and its importance to our lives is exemplified by these other records of membership:

- 51 years Louise Ripley & Jane Baker
- 47 years Marty Fenn
- 36 years Sylvia Eaton
- 35 years Louise Luring
- 33 years Susan Stein
- 32 years Addie Minott
- 31 years Hollie Bowen & Norma Shakun
- 23 years Marion Daley
- 21 years Jenifer Ambler
- 20 years Gillian Winner
- 18 years Mileva Brown
- 17 years Vicki Poulos
- 15 years Betty Cohn

Although she took a hiatus, we remember Pat Laubach as a member in the '70's.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES SHARE EXPERIENCES AT ANNUAL BRUNCH

All four of this year's scholarship awardees (and their mothers) attended our annual Scholarship Brunch and shared their experiences thus far in academia.

We heard from Katherine Nolan of Putney who is attending Wellesley College, Helena Gomez of Londonderry (Providence College), Caroline Kirkpatrick of Westminster (UVM) and Linda Gallup of Brookline (Johnson State College), who is our Mature Woman and an active educator.



Scholarship winners Katherine Nolan, Linda Gallup, Helena Gomez, and Caroline Kirkpatrick with Scholarship Committee chair Gillian Winner at the Scholarship Brunch. (Photo by Jenifer Ambler)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I write this the day before an historic inauguration. I, as many others, am hoping for change. However, there is always change, not always for the better and not always for the worse. But here's to hoping on the better side. We have some exciting events this spring. I hope all will be able to attend the February presentation on the Lund Family Center. It will be nice to understand the connection Brattleboro has with this valuable Vermont resource. Your board is diligently working on firming up the program for the state convention at the end of April. I hope many of you will volunteers your extra bed for out of town guests the Friday night prior to the meeting. I hope all are staying warm, and remember, spring always follows winter.

.....Susan Stein



PLEASE NOTE: The April 14 meeting will be replaced by the Vermont State meeting to be held in Brattleboro Sat., April 25.

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



washingtonupdate

News from AAUW



AAUW Kicks off "Keep the Change" Campaign

AAUW has kicked off a Keep the Change Until Women Have Real Change campaign. According to new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007, the ratio of women's and men's median annual earnings reached almost 78 cents to the dollar for full-time, year-round workers, up from just under 77 cents in 2006. While it's true that this is the narrowest the wage gap has ever been, it's only an additional one cent on the dollar. That's why AAUW is telling Congress that they should Keep the Change until Women Have Real Change. Visit AAUW's [Pay Equity](#) web page to learn more about the campaign. You can also download AAUW's [Pay Equity Resource Kit](#) for ideas, tips, and resources to use in your community.

AAUW Victory on Pay Equity Bills

Thanks to the hard work of AAUW and our coalition partners, the House and Senate passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. The House has also passed the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Senate will take it up soon. AAUW members and supporters have worked tirelessly for years to bring these bills to passage, and AAUW's [Capitol Hill Lobby Corps](#) was also instrumental in this advocacy campaign, visiting many congressional offices to represent the support of AAUW members across the nation. (Our Congressional delegation is supporting both bills.)

Female Senators Reach Historic First

In addition to the record number of 95 women serving in the 111th Congress, women legislators have reached another milestone. Sens. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) will make history as the first pair of women to lead a full committee in the House or Senate. Sen. Landrieu will become chair and Sen. Snowe will become the ranking member of the Senate's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. Landrieu and Snowe plan to promote the interests of women-owned small businesses in their new leadership roles.

!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., Feb. 19 (Black History Month) at J. Rueter's
The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. Dubois

Thurs., Mar. 12 *Triangle* by Katharine Weber

Thurs., Apr. 16 *What is the What* by Dave Eggers

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

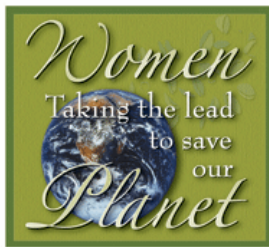
Thurs., June 18 *In the Eye of the Storm: Swept Into the Center by God* by Gene Robinson

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

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



Because equity is still an issue.



“In the long term, the economy and the environment are the same thing. If it’s un-environmental, it is un-economical. That is the rule of nature.”

*--Mollie Beattie,
Former Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

“The environment that people live in is the environment that they learn to live in, respond to, and perpetuate. If the environment is good, so be it. But if it is poor, so is the quality of life within it.”

*-- Ellen Swallow Richards,
Industrial and Environmental Chemist*

AAUW MISSION, VISION, VALUE PROMISE



Our **Mission** is the heart of what we do and empowers us:

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.



Our **Vision** is the ideal that we share:

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.



The **Value Promise** expresses the spirit of AAUW:

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.