

# Alabama Daybreak

## President's Message

### AAUW – Not Your “Average” Group



While attending a local AAUW meeting, it is natural for me to promote participation by local members in programs that advocate for the issues that are AAUW priorities. I encourage branches to develop programs that reach out to the public, to educate them about topics relating to women and girls. These include topics such as ensuring a secure retirement, how to have a safe campus and productive learning environment, achieving an equitable wage or supportive workplace, or the importance of a higher education.

I also promote leadership development and activism by individual members. In this way, we can protect the freedoms we have fought hard to attain, encourage programs that support our policies and fight injustice and discrimination that threaten the lives and well-being of women and girls.

I have heard AAUW draw criticism from some members about the activism that AAUW encourages branches and members to espouse. “It is not our (AAUW’s) job to promote voter registration or march for equal rights. That’s the purpose of other organizations.”

But I have to disagree. AAUW is not your average local women’s non-profit organization, concerned only with luncheons, bake sales, local charity, fellowship and self-enlightenment. It is those things and more – it is part of a national network of 100,000 women, and AAUW’s

mission is to advance equity for women and girls, for our needs and concerns across our life span. We do this thru advocacy, research and education and build this on a foundation of 130 years of responsible public participation.

We develop leadership training and encourage all women, not just members, to become active leaders in their organizations and their community and to become effective citizens that advocate for the policies they hold dear. Through AAUW’s research about equity for women and girls, through our grants and fellowships to support women’s education, through our community forums about women’s concerns (retirement, pay equity, safe schools, etc.) and through our political activism (Get Out The Vote, Ready to Run™, lobbying, etc.), AAUW members work to get things done.

AAUW members are out to make a difference, not just to enrich our own lives, but to improve the lives of others. And today, with all of the challenges facing our communities, our state and our nation, it is our right and our responsibility to step up and play a leading role wherever we can. By becoming (and remaining) an AAUW member, we are accepting that challenge and we continue to take actions that break thru educational and economic barriers so that women and girls can have a more promising future.

*Jo Ann Cummings,*

AAUW of Alabama President

## Ready to Run™

By Wanda Foster, Co-Director

On October 4, Audrey Salgado, head trainer for AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ project, spoke at the October 4 meeting of the Huntsville Branch, along with Carol Madry Bell, Executive Director, Huntsville Committee of 100, who spoke on the Committee's election recruitment and training program. Audrey discussed the role AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ has developed in collaborating with other organizations in Alabama and with The 2012 Project initiated by the Center for American Women and Politics in the Eagleton Center at Rutgers. Audrey is the liaison between AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ and The 2012 Project.

A major collaboration AAUW and our Ready to Run™ program have been involved in is with the Women's Leadership Institute (WLI) at Auburn, the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) 2012 Project, and Vision 2020. On May 6, we met at Auburn to address the women's leadership gap in Alabama. The meeting provided helpful information to women interested in running or supporting a campaign, and served to network women leaders from across the state.

On the morning of October 13, we met again at Auburn in a workshop partnering The 2012 Project, Vision 2020, and Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform's "140 Voices for a Better Alabama." The workshop covered field organizing and fundraising. Speakers were Cheri Clark, ACCR Foundation's Statewide County Organizer; Audrey L. Salgado, ACCR Foundation's President; and Shari Rossman, a fundraising professional.

In the afternoon, Marie C. Wilson, founder of the White House Project, delivered the Extraordinary Women Lecture in the Telfair Peet Theatre at Auburn. She is the author of *Closing the Leadership Gap: Why Women Can and Must Help Run the World*. Lilly Ledbetter



was also present, and we were pleased to learn that she, along with ten other notable American women, was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame at Seneca Falls, October 2.

The 2012 Project is a national, non-partisan campaign to increase the number of women in Congress and state legislatures by taking advantage of all the once-in-a-decade opportunities of 2012. Vision 2020, with whom AAUW of Alabama is also partnered, is a national initiative developed to make equality a national priority through shared leadership among women and men by 2020, the centennial celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. AAUW is a partner of Vision 2020. ACCR's "140 Voices for a Better Alabama" plans to recruit one citizen for each of the 105 house districts and 35 senate districts to be a voice for constitutional reform and educate citizens in their respective districts on how the state constitution impacts them in their daily lives. The plan is to target 51.9 percent of Alabama women to become a voice representing the 51.9 percent female population in the state. AAUW of Alabama is a coalition partner with the ACCR Foundation, ACCR's education arm.

Ready to Run™ will also continue to work with AAUW of Alabama branches and like-minded organizations to provide our training workshops. Let me know if you're interested: [wlfoster002@yahoo.com](mailto:wlfoster002@yahoo.com).

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### Mark Your Calendar for Our State Convention!

Our 2012 state convention will be held in Birmingham Friday April 28 through Sunday April 30, at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Birmingham. Check the Winter 2011 Daybreak for detailed information.

We're already beginning to get some exciting speakers lined up. And if you're interested in volunteering to help, please let me know: [wlfoster002@yahoo.com](mailto:wlfoster002@yahoo.com).

## Huntsville Branch Sponsors \$tart \$mart Campus Workshop

By Rose Norman, AAUW of Huntsville

The Huntsville branch won an AAUW Campus Outreach Grant to co-sponsor a wage negotiation workshop at UAH on Friday, November 4, 1-4 pm. The workshop is called \$tart \$mart and is the result of a partnership between AAUW and The WAGE Project ([wageproject.org](http://wageproject.org), WAGE stands for Women Are Getting Even). The Huntsville branch partnered with UAH Career Development, UAH Women's Studies, and Huntsville's Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC) to bring this workshop to Huntsville.

Research shows that American women typically leave over a million dollars in lifetime earnings on the table because they lack skills in negotiating salaries. \$tart \$mart addresses the gender gap in U.S. wages, as well as skills and tactics for negotiating salaries. Over 200 \$tart \$mart workshops have been offered nationwide since the project began in 2007.

The workshop leader is Annie Houle, National Director of Campus and Community Initiatives for the WAGE Project. Houle has conducted these workshops for about 1000 students at 150 campuses nationwide.

The UAH workshop will also offer training as \$tart \$mart facilitators. Once trained, these facilitators can offer their own \$tart \$mart workshops, working through The WAGE Project. People who want to train as facilitators pay a \$50 fee and are required to observe the 3-hour student workshop, and then participate in a 90-minute follow-up training session with WAGE Project trainer, Annie Houle from 4:30-6 pm. To register online for facilitator training, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StartSmartUAH>

The UAH workshop is free to college students, but space is limited, and UAH students and

alumni have priority in registration. UAH registration opens on October 17. If seats are still available, registration will open to the public on October 23 at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StartSmartUAH>

Annie Houle will also speak at the Saturday, November 5 meeting of the Huntsville branch of AAUW, 10 am to 1 pm. Her talk for the branch meeting will address how young women can negotiate their salaries/wages starting with their first job, tactics they can use, the gender gap in wages, and outcomes of the WAGE Project/AAUW partnership. This meeting is open to the public, and other branch members are encouraged to attend. Cost for brunch is \$15 and reservations are required by November 3 to Lois Guendel at [herb.guendel@knology.net](mailto:herb.guendel@knology.net).

Here is further information if your branch is interested in working with a local college to set up a workshop. The first \$tart \$mart workshop on a college campus currently costs \$600, and subsequent workshops on that campus are \$300/semester. Schools can buy a 3-year site license for unlimited workshops for \$1500.

UAH Women's Studies and Career Development will each be sponsoring training for at least two facilitators in anticipation of future workshops on the UAH campus. The Huntsville branch will be encouraging and assisting other college campuses to organize \$tart \$mart workshops.

For more information about \$tart \$mart at UAH, contact Dr. Rose Norman, [rose.norman@uah.edu](mailto:rose.norman@uah.edu). Read about it online at <http://www.aauw.org/learn/LeadershipPrograms/StartSmart.cfm>

UAH alumni who need information about using ChargerPath may call Kellee Crawford, UAH Career Development, 256-824-6938.

## Fostering Ideas for Branch Programs

By Wanda Foster, Program Vice President

I want to recommend to branch Program Vice Presidents national AAUW's Programs in a Box. I've mentioned them before, but they just keep getting better and better. The Programs in a Box online member resource was developed to help branches choose mission-based program activities. Each Program in a Box outlines an activity, with the what, why, and how required to implement it. New programs are added regularly, and if you would like to recommend a program that's been successful for your branch, email your suggestion to [programinbox@aauw.org](mailto:programinbox@aauw.org).

One of the hottest programs is "Cocktails and Convos" (short for "conversation"). It draws together members and nonmembers in a fun and casual setting to discuss women's issues and provides an opportunity to market your branch to your community and potential members in a low-pressure setting. I know that the Huntsville Branch is planning to try it.

Since Public Policy is a part of programs, I want to recognize our new and very able Public Policy Chair, Carrie Robbins. Carrie is a graduate of Montevallo and has attended NCCWSL (The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) as well as a couple of national conventions. She has also participated in Ready to Run™ training. I'm excited to have Carrie in Public Policy, and she will be happy to act as a resource to branch Public Policy Chairs. I'm also pleased to tell you that Elizabeth Hendrix, one of the "founding mothers" of AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ program and one of its first trainers, is back in Alabama studying for her law degree.

Here are the other Programs in a Box:

### **Branch Community Programs**

**Case Support Travel Grant** - Meet and support AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund plaintiffs and highlight the issues they face.

**The Combined Federal Campaign — Support AAUW** - AAUW is a designated charity in the

Combined Federal Campaign, the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charitable-giving campaign.

**Financially Fit for Life** - Help women in your community take charge of their financial well-being.

**Focus on the Fellows and Grantees** - Build support for fellows and grantees and AAUW's education-funding efforts.

**Global Issues for Women and Girls** - Raise awareness about the successes and challenges facing women and girls in their communities and around the world.

**Title IX Compliance: Know the Score** - Help high schools reach Title IX compliance in athletics without the threat of expensive litigation.

**Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics** - Share ideas on how each of us can help open scientific and engineering fields more fully to girls and women.

### **Branch Fundraising**

**Life After 50 (Video)** - Find out how to book the dynamic authors of *Saving the Best for Last: Creating Our Lives after 50* as part of your branch programming.

**The Princeton Review SCORE Program** - Provide free workshops and practice exams to women who wish to attend college or graduate school.

**World Medical Card** - The World Medical Card allows everyone to be in control of her or his personal medical information and have access to it anywhere at any time, even in an emergency. Help distribute this valuable resource and prevent medical errors.

### **Campus Programs**

**Campus Action Project** - Develop an idea and apply for an AAUW Campus Action Project grant to help break through the educational and economic barriers women face on campus.

**Campus Calm** - Maria Pascucci, founder and president of Campus Calm, speaks to students about the overwhelming pressure to "do it all" and the terrible toll it takes on their health. This video-format Program in a Box describes the various workshops and webinars that are available at discounted rates to AAUW's college/university partner members.

[Campus Sexual Assault](#) - Raise awareness about campus sexual assault so that everyone can help end it.

[LAF Campus Outreach Program](#) - Help local institutions combat sex discrimination.

[Start Smart](#) - Provide women college students entering the job market with tools to negotiate salaries and benefits.

### **K-12 Programs**

[Let's Read Math™](#) - Help elementary school children talk about and enjoy doing math.

### **Public Policy Programs**

[Grassroots Advocacy Leadership Training Workshop](#) - Give women the knowledge and tools they need to become grassroots advocacy leaders in their branches and communities.

[Meeting with a Public Official: In District Meetings](#) - Schedule and conduct a successful meeting with a federal, state, or local public official.

[Pay Equity](#) - Step-by-step instructions on how to use the AAUW Pay Equity Resource Kit to advocate for and educate communities about pay equity.

[Public Policy Brunch](#) - The components of planning and implementing an effective public policy brunch event.

[The Shriver Report — A Woman's Nation Changes Everything](#) - Raise awareness and activism surrounding AAUW's policy recommendations based on the *Woman's Nation* report.

[Summit on Women and the Courts](#) - Discuss judicial appointments, consider the legal aspects of gender and race discrimination, and discuss the positions of various politicians in reference to their appointment or confirmation choices.

[Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout](#) - A workshop that covers the components of planning and implementing an effective campaign to turn out women to vote.

[Women's Summit on Affirmative Action](#) - Host a forum to assemble local members of AAUW and your community to address the importance of affirmative action programs.

[Women's Summit on Work/Life Balance](#) - Host a forum that assembles local members of AAUW and your community to address the importance of policies

that allow workers to balance the responsibilities of work and family.

[Women's Summit on Health Care](#) (under revision) - Assemble local members of AAUW and your community to address the importance of health care reform.

### **Special Events**

[NCCWSL — Support the Conference, Send a Student Leader!](#) - Help female college students attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

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## **Bylaws Update**

By Ellie Lienau, AAUW of Alabama and Marilyn Robertson, AAUW of Alabama

You are probably wondering why we haven't sent you information about the mandatory changes to the state and branch bylaws that should happen after a national convention. That is because this has not been spelled out to us from the national AAUW.

AAUW recently sent an email stating that significant changes are being made to the DC code, effective January 1, 2012. This will necessitate changes to the AAUW bylaws. This in turn will affect state and branch bylaws as they must be congruent with those of AAUW. So the decision was made to wait until after the DC code changes so all mandatory changes can be made at the same time. These changes are not voted on by the branch, but just put in the bylaws. When we get more guidance, we will let the branches know.

In the meantime, please look at your bylaws. There are apt to be changes that should be made to conform to the way your branch does business. These should be voted on according to how amendments are made to your bylaws. Any proposed changes are to be sent to the state for review prior to the membership vote. Let us know if you have any questions:

[elienau@yahoo.com](mailto:elienau@yahoo.com) 256-852-4802  
[marilyn.robertson@knology.net](mailto:marilyn.robertson@knology.net)  
 256-536-2701

**ACCR  
New Constitutional Revision Commission  
Names Gov. Albert Brewer Chair**

from [www.constitutionalreform.org](http://www.constitutionalreform.org)

By Cindi Branham, Huntsville Branch President

A new Constitutional Revision Commission was passed into law in the 2011 Legislative Session. The Commission is comprised of the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and three persons appointed by each, providing the appointees reflect the diversity of this State. The nine appointees are:

Appointed by the Governor:

Former Governor Albert Brewer, Wetumpka Tea Party president, Becky Gerritson; Alabama Policy Institute supporter and Heritage Foundation member, Vicki Drummond.

Appointed by President Pro Tem Del Marsh:

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing survivor and Vice Chair of the ACCR Mock Convention, Carolyn McKinstry; President of the Alabama State Bar, Jim Pratt; Lawyer Matthew Lembke.

Appointed by Speaker Mike Hubbard:

Representative Patricia Todd; Democratic polster John Anzalone; Balch and Bingham attorney Greg Butrus.

The Commission also includes ad hoc (non-voting) members: Chair of the Senate Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics & Elections Committee, Senator Bryan Taylor; Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Ben Brooks; Chair of the House Constitution and Ethics Committee, Rep. Randy Davis and Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Paul DeMarco. The Alabama Law Institute will staff and advise the Commission.

The first meeting was an organizational meeting held August 31st at 1:00 p.m. in the old Senate Chamber of the State Capitol Building in Montgomery. The next meeting will be held September 21st in Montgomery at 1:30 p.m. The legislation the Commission will address follows a schedule beginning in 2011 and ending in 2014 of 11 Constitution Articles to be revised, presented to the Legislature for passage and then to the voters for approval.

**Alabama Arise**

By Cindi Branham, Huntsville Branch President

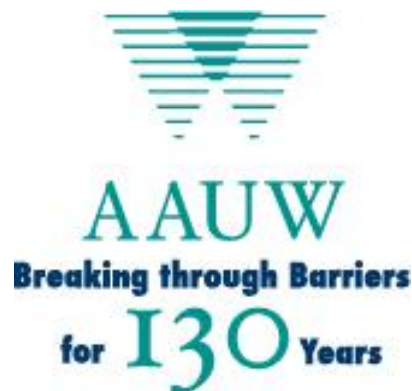
On Saturday, September 17, members of Alabama Arise met in Montgomery to determine their legislative and advocacy priorities for the upcoming year.



In addition to the permanent issues of Tax Reform and Adequate State Budgets, membership voted to choose these priorities:

- Establish a Housing Trust Fund and develop supportive housing for the homeless
- Repeal the 2011 Immigration law
- Support Constitutional Reform
- Moratorium on executions
- Develop public transportation

The issues that did not get enough votes were the Equal Pay Commission and Fairer Prison Phone Rates, though these were given Arise endorsements.



AAUW will celebrate our 130th Anniversary on November 28, 2011. To honor this auspicious occasion, we are declaring November National AAUW Month!

## **Alabama Arise Receiving Royalties from New Book on Taxing Groceries in Alabama**

By Wanda Foster, Program Vice President

Katherine Newman, James B. Knapp Dean of the Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University, and Rourke O'Brien, a nonresident fellow of the New America Foundation, are co-authors of an insightful and deeply disturbing book, *Taxing the Poor: Doing Damage to the Truly Disadvantaged* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011). They were helped considerably in their research by Alabama Arise, who educated them on the grocery tax campaign and introduced them to several poor Alabamians whose stories the authors use. Royalties from book sales are being donated to Alabama Arise. (The book is available on Amazon if you would like to order a copy.)

One reason getting rid of the sales tax on groceries has been unsuccessful is the South's strong history of regressive taxation, going all the way back to the Southern colonial period. One strategy those in power used was erecting procedural hurdles that made property tax increases extremely difficult. It started in Alabama in 1875, with the "Redeemer" constitution, and quickly spread to neighboring states. The 1901 constitution, driven by urban industrialists and white landowners from the Black Belt, originated in an effort to make sure black majorities would not regain political power, overturn the Redemption constitution of 1875, and reinstate high property taxes. According to Alabama historian Wayne Flynt, "Virtually all Alabama's twentieth-century problems were somehow related to the state's tax structure." There were efforts in the 1950s and 1960s to amend the constitution and increase property taxation, but they failed. Constitutional amendments adopted in 1971 and 1978 allowed the state to circumvent federal court rulings calling for fair assessment and taxation of property. To this day, we have the lowest property tax and the highest sales tax in the country.

Meanwhile, the condition of Alabama's poor is abysmal. While sales tax affects everyone across the board, it affects the poor more than others, since most of their income—such as it is—goes toward groceries and other necessities. The rural poor have it worst, since they are more distant from towns or cities and must "hire" neighbors to

drive them to grocery stores, where they stock up on high-calorie, preservative-loaded, cheap foods that will "keep" until their next trip. No wonder obesity is such a problem. In most Southern states, more than one-third of children 10-17 are obese or overweight. Over 30 percent of adults in Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi are obese, and two-thirds are overweight. The South, with justification, is known as the "stroke belt."

The Alabama sales tax and the fact the Southern poor are often subjected to income tax contribute significantly to other poverty-related issues as well—infant mortality, early adult mortality, high school dropout rates, teen pregnancy, and both crime against property and violence to persons. The authors say, "Whether we look at household income, health outcomes, educational attainment, labor force participation, or crime, . . . the South looks worse on all of these measures." And the traumas of poverty endured by young children ensure the poverty cycle will go on and that even those fortunate enough to climb out of poverty later will face an uphill battle.

Alabama's taxation system generates the lowest revenue from property taxation of any state while maintaining the highest sales tax rate in the United States. The low level of revenue gained through sales taxes impoverishes the public sector and pushes investments in education and infrastructure to very low levels. The federal government is pouring money into the South, particularly in efforts to ease a burden of poverty the states are unwilling and/or unable to ease themselves. Thus the problem is not merely regional, but national. Worse, the South is no longer alone in its reliance on regressive taxation, since Proposition 13 changed the tax system in California and the use of regressive taxation has spread in the West.

The authors make a persuasive case (backed up with statistics from an array of impressive organizations, as well as their own research) for how ingrained the problem of taxation of the poor is and why it has to be corrected. For anyone who wants to see the abolition of the grocery tax, a restructuring of Alabama's tax system, and/or a new, more equitable state constitution, reading this book is a must.

## Branch News

### Montevallo

By Sandra Lott, Montevallo Branch President

Members of the Montevallo Branch of AAUW will focus on Educational Opportunities and Educational equity at all levels and in a variety of settings. Programs and projects will emphasize lifelong learning, through support for Reading Is Fundamental (Kindergarten and 1st grade) and through the Adelante Book Group, which brings together various age groups from high school, college students, people in the workplace and retirees. Branch members will sponsor a program and participate in a project on prison literacy in coalition with the Literacy Council of Central Alabama. Plans are to initiate this project through an action oriented program on October 27. Beth Hughes Wilder of the Literacy Council of Central Alabama will be coordinator and presenter at this program. In December the Branch will co-host a Holiday Reception and Bazaar at Flowerhill, the home of President and Mrs. John Stewart.

A major emphasis in Branch programs and projects will be bringing together University students and teachers to work in coalition with persons and groups in the community.

The January program will feature new Educational Opportunities and Programs being developed at UM. The February program will be a report on a faculty research project on a former faculty member in the 1930's who investigated lynchings in the south and advocated social justice. The presenter will be Kathy Lowe, director of UM's Carmichael Library. This presentation will showcase a woman's research into a little known period in UM history and the role of former faculty members in combating injustice during the depression years. Professor Wilson Fallin will explore the larger context of this research as it relates to the quest for racial justice and equality in Alabama.

The Branch will hold a major fundraiser in March. In April, Branch members will sponsor a community wide book group event co-hosted by Eclipse Coffee and Books. This event will feature one or more local authors who address issues of special concern to AAUW.

Branch members will end the year with a reception for Student honorees at Flowerhill, the President's home at the University of Montevallo. This event will include a report on Community Action projects

in Montevallo, including the Library Landscape Redesign Project, Living River, the UM Environmental Club, and the UM Lake Restoration project.

### Birmingham

by Cathy Moncrief, Birmingham Comm. Director

The Birmingham branch of AAUW began their 2011-2012 year with their annual Membership Coffee. It was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Sept. 10 at 10 A.M. Refreshments were provided by the membership.

Second term President Jimmie Anderson introduced the incoming officers and board members who are Programs VP Patti Steelman, Co-VP of Membership and Caring Committee chair Barbara Patterson, Co Membership VP Jo Hempstead, who also serves as yearbook editor and by-laws chair, Treasurer Diane Marks, Secretary Jennifer Kersh, Communications Director Cathy Moncrief and bulletin editor Jeannine Spann. Past President Cathye McDonald also serves on the board, along with the chairs of the book groups. Sara Taylor is in charge of Education and Legal Funds and Barbara Barnard oversees Public Policy issues. Bobbie Piper, who serves as Morning Book Group chair gave a glimpse of the books to be read this year and said the group would carry on their tradition of seeing a play at the Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery. Evening Book Group chair Judith Hand presented a list of the books they would be reviewing and mentioned that the popular monthly dinner and a movie night would be continued. Patti Steelman, VP of Programs, and her committee have an exciting year of Lunch and Learn meetings planned with informative speakers covering timely topics. Included will be an outing to the Birmingham Museum of Art and musical entertainment for the Holiday gathering in December.

Pat Fitzsimmons, who provided the musical entertainment, serving as the chair of the Memorial Scholarship Committee, introduced the two recipients for this year. They are Elizabeth Kerley, a student at UAB and Wei Wang who attends Jefferson State Community College.

A memorial candle was lit in remembrance of the members who passed away this year. They are Marie Mayer, Bennie Mendelson and Barbara Trauffer.

The next Lunch and Learn meeting will be at the Cahaba Pumping Station Museum on Tuesday Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. Bettina Byrd-Giles will be the featured speaker. Her topic is the "Cultural Revolution of Alabama."



## Marion Branch News

By Mary Moore, Marion Branch President

The Marion Branch of AAUW was chartered in 1936. AAUW is open to all graduates who hold an associate, baccalaureate or higher degree from a college or university on the list of qualified institutions.

The Marion Branch is planning a year of activities focused on advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

In September the Branch focused on reconnecting and recruiting. In addition we discussed upcoming activities.

On October 7, 2011, the Marion Branch will host its Third Annual College Jamboree. Colleges and universities from across the country have been invited and will provide educational opportunities to the juniors and seniors from across the Black Belt. In conjunction with the College Jamboree, the Branch will hold a health fair and voter registration drive.

November 2011 will be another busy month for the Marion Branch. Plans are being made to partner with the American Red Cross to conduct a blood drive. In addition, the Branch will conduct a Ready to Run seminar on November 30, 2011, for potential candidates and campaign committees. A staff attorney from the Alabama Secretary of State's office will discuss qualifying and filing requirements, fundraising, absentee voting laws, military voting, and other election related topics.

December 13, 2011, the branch will host a holiday social at Lottie's Restaurant featuring a jazz violinist. We will have more details about this meeting closer to the date.

Branch meetings are held at 5:00 on the second Tuesday of each month.

## College/University Partners Program

This is a reminder for branches to reach out to your local college to get them to become AAUW C/U Partners. The special anniversary price of \$130 per college is still in effect. Not only does the college get two free advisor memberships, but all students can join National as "e-student" members. Contact Veronica Bryant for more info. (205) 527-6190. [veronica.bryant@wgint.com](mailto:veronica.bryant@wgint.com)

## Huntsville Branch News

By Cindi Branham, Huntsville Branch President

After a September meeting filled with reports of fabulous, enriching and rejuvenating conventions – NCCWSL and National AAUW Convention – Huntsville Branch is on a roll.

The National Convention PowerPoint summary is at [http://www.uah.edu/aauw/National\\_Convention\\_Take-Aways\\_2011.pdf](http://www.uah.edu/aauw/National_Convention_Take-Aways_2011.pdf).

Branch programs for the Fall:

### September 6 - National Conference for College Women Student Leaders & AAUW National Convention



Students who attended NCCWSL spoke about their experiences. Members who attended AAUW national convention reported, and goals and plans for the year were discussed.

### October 4 - Effective Campaigns

**Carol Madry Bell**, Executive Director, Huntsville



Committee of 100, spoke on the organization's Political Training Institute which is designed to educate candidates and community leaders about how to run an effective campaign through fundraising, campaign organization, polling and strategy, advertising & PR, and leadership development.

**Audrey Salgado** spoke about the 2012 Project, a



national, non-partisan campaign embraced by AAUW to increase the number of women in legislative office by identifying and engaging accomplished women 45 and older from underrepresented fields and industries, including

finance, science, technology, energy, health, environment, small business, and international affairs. She is a trainer for AAUW of Alabama's Ready to Run™ program and the program's liaison for the 2012 Project.

## All Around Alabama

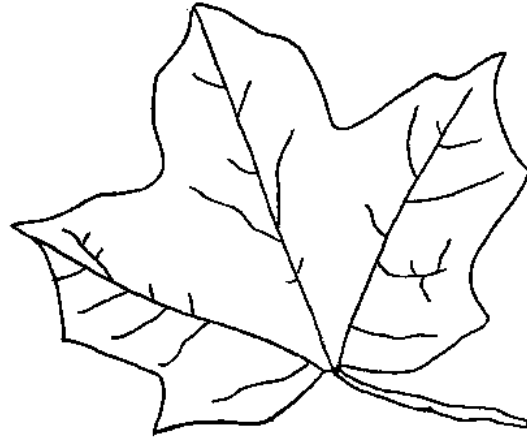
Lilly Ledbetter, Alabama's own--famous for fighting for equal pay and for having the first signed law of the Obama administration named for her--has deservedly been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls. She was one of 11 current inductees, including U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, Coretta Scott King, Billie Holiday, and St. Katharine Drexel, one of the few American-born saints.

“From an early suffragist to a civil rights pioneer; from a university president to trailblazers in health and science; each of these women have demonstrated fortitude, perseverance, intelligence and hope. Their experiences provide both an example for each of us to emulate and a challenge for each of us to embrace,” National Women’s Hall of Fame executive Director Christine Moulton said in a statement.

The hall, founded in 1969, has inducted 236 women. It has recently launched a new website, [www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org).



**Want to know what’s happening** at the State AAUW level? Get convention highlights and much more: <http://www.aauw-alabama.org> and ‘Like’ us on facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AAUWAlabama>



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

### Albert Camus

*French existentialist author & philosopher (1913 - 1960)*

### **Two Minute Activist:**

**It’s Time for Congress to Focus on Jobs**

Tell Congress now is not the time to cut funding for critical job training programs.

### **Support Access to Preventative Care and Contraception**

Urge the Department of Health and Human Services to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine.

**Take Action Against Sexual Violence!**

A 2007 campus sexual-assault study by the U.S. Department of Justice found that around 28 percent of women are targets of attempted or completed sexual assault while they are college students. The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) reports that college-age women are four times more likely than any other age group to face sexual assault. There is an epidemic of sexual violence on campuses. Contact your legislator about this bill against violence on campus:

<http://www.capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=51725531>

**Email Alert!**

Make sure you're subscribed to AAUW Washington Update, the weekly AAUW members-only digest email providing you all the political, legislative, and regulatory news you need. Remember, AAUW members must proactively sign up – you're not automatically subscribed!

**AAUW in Your Pajamas!**

Have you visited AAUW's national website lately to check out our new and innovative virtual community? Go on, take a tour! <http://www.aauw.org/about/aauwExperience/fusion/index.html>

**Alabama Daybreak's Editorial Staff:**

Right, Alabama AAUW President JoAnn Cummings, Alabama AAUW Communications Director Julie Blair, and AAUW Huntsville Branch Secretary Beverly Watson.

**Watch your mailbox for our next issue!**



## *AAUW Events Calendar*

Please mark your calendar for these meeting dates and events:

### **November 4, 2011**

**\$mart \$tart workshop and training**  
UA Huntsville.

### **November 5, 2011**

Women and Wages

**Annie Houle**, a trainer for \$tart \$mart, a wage negotiation workshop, will speak. \$tart \$mart is a joint project of the WAGE Project and AAUW, initiated because of the finding that women, on average, leave a million dollars on the table in lifetime earnings, because they do not effectively negotiate starting salaries.



*This is a public meeting.*

Brunch – Saturday, November 5,  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. \$15.00 –  
Reservations must be made by  
5:00 p.m., Thursday, November 3\*  
\* RSVP to 256-880-8643 or  
[herb.guendel@knology.net](mailto:herb.guendel@knology.net)

Huntsville Branch meetings will be in the Fellowship Hall of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 301 Drake Avenue SE.

### **January, 2012**

Executive & Board Meeting, Leadership Training  
Location, date TBD

### **March 9, 2012**

Breaking through Barriers Luncheon

### **April 27-29, 2012**

AAUW of Alabama State Convention with  
Student Workshops, Leader Meetings  
Birmingham

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AAUW of Alabama  
Julie Blair  
Communications Director

71 Hartington Drive  
Madison, AL 35758

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