

April Branch Meeting—

Supper, Elections & Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 6 PM

*The Heritage Center
322 6th St, Traverse City*

- Elect new officers
- Review budget
- Hear plans for the coming year
- Share your voice to the direction of the branch
- Enjoy a congenial dinner

You are important to the future and vitality of the branch.

Please join us!

*Please bring an appetizer, salad
OR dessert to share.*



June Branch Meeting—

Tour Boardman River Nature Center, Picnic & Hike

Tuesday, June 9, 6 PM

*Boardman River Nature Center
1450 Cass Road, Traverse City*

We will explore the exhibit gallery, theater room, and craft area for kids, and then will step outside and take a hike along the Boardman River!

Of course, we also will enjoy a picnic—so get out your summer recipes!

Mark your calendars and plan to be there!

National and Local Conventions Keep Us Plugged in!

Our national and state conventions provide an opportunity to plug into the issues and directions of AAUW across the nation. They provide forums for discussion, instruction, and sharing. Attendees come away with new ideas, a renewed commitment, an appreciation for all AAUW has accomplished, and many new friends.

AAUW-Michigan's Annual Convention will be hosted by the Midland Branch and held at the Valley Plaza Resort, May 2–3. The three breakout sessions cover topics as diverse as *United Nations & the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Schools* and the *Education of Children in India* to ones on *Branch Strategies*, *Peace Through Business Initiative*, and the *National Conference for College Women Student Leaders*.

Go to the AAUW-MI site to register, reserve a room at the hotel, and look at the agenda: <http://www.aauwmi.org/>. Because of our growth, we now are allowed five voting delegates. **Please consider attending.** Contact Shirley Murray if you would like attend.

National Convention, Breaking Through Barriers

The National Convention, *Breaking Through Barriers*, will be held in St. Louis from June 26–28. This jam-packed conference includes two keynote speakers: Lilly Ledbetter, whose efforts resulted in passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act; and Jackie Speier (D-CA), who represents California's 12th Congressional district.

A number of bylaws will be discussed, including one that would eliminate college-degree requirements for membership. Go to National's website (<http://www.aauw.org/>) for conference details, candidates for national office, and proposed bylaws. Contact Shirley Murray if you are interested in attending, and with your input regarding candidates and bylaw changes.

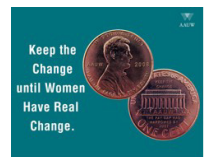
Equal Pay Day is on April 28

by Nadine Dolan, Public Policy Chair

Every year in April, AAUW and hundreds of other organizations—women's, civil rights, labor, and community—team up with the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) for a national day of action promoting fair pay: **Equal Pay Day**. The day, observed on a Tuesday in April, symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year. (Tuesday is the day on which women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous week.) Because women earn less, on average, than men, they must work longer for the same amount of pay.

According to new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 the ratio of women's to men's median annual earnings reached almost 78 cents on the dollar for full-time, year-round workers, up from just under 77 cents in 2006. This is the narrowest the wage gap has ever been, but it's only an additional one cent on the dollar. One cent is chump change. It isn't real change. This year's slogan is "Keep

(See Equal Pay on p. 4)



President's Message—

Widening the Tent for AAUW

Shirley Murray, President, Traverse City Area Branch

As I lean over my computer, I can see the first indomitable snow-drops poking through the snow. It's a metaphor for my thoughts on women today.

I am enchanted by the NMC honor students portraying first ladies in *Remember the Ladies*, and Benzie Women's History



Remember the Ladies!

group's *Every Woman Has a Story*, celebrating of women's history month.

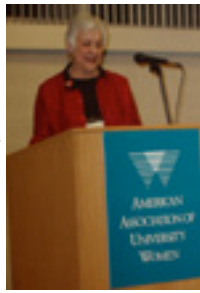
The AAUW state conference in Midland and the national convention in St. Louis broaden my horizons.

Our branch is sending two NMC women to the 2009 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, D.C. All of this

gives me great hope for the future of women in our community.

At our annual meeting and state convention we will discuss changing the national bylaws to be inclusive of all women who share our positions on women's issues. We have welcomed all two- and four-year-degree holders as well as men. Now it's time for us to remove any remaining restrictions. If the change in the bylaws passes at the national convention, we will no longer have to ask a woman who is enthusiastic and excited about our group to provide her degree.

Our branch has long supported all women in their pursuit of a better life. It's time to invite them to join us.



Welcome to our New Members!

Judith E. Gass

1237 Milliken Dr, TC 49686

231-929-3244

BA Phy. Ed./Spanish, MA Albion College MA Educ., UofM

Interests: snowshoe, birding, book sale

Committees: Education

Chris Gallant

7865 Sunset Dr., TC 49684

231-421-5344

holzer1024@hotmail.com

BA German, Colby College

Interests: political junky, writing, hiking, traveling, tennis

JoAnn Henle

699 Francis Dr. TC 49686

213-946-6589

jmhenle@gmail.com

BA English/History, U Ark at Little Rock

Interests: Writers, Lobdell's lunch, daytime book

Sherry McNamara

1526 W. Silver Lake Rd., TC 49684

231-313-2769

kikiwon@hotmail.com

Paralegal Studies, NMC; Mgmt & Org Dev, Spring Arbor U

Interests: State Theatre volunteer, hike, bike, canoe, kayak, snowshoe, book sale



Thanks for the Newsletter

The Branch thanks Dotty

French for her outstanding dedication to the Branch newsletter for the past several years.

Our newsletter is a vital link to all our members, those who are in town year round and those who are away part of the year.

Dotty's willingness to shoulder the responsibility of preparing the newsletter is very much appreciated.

Thanks for a job well done!

Help Us Support the Parade of Homes

By Ellie Tacke and Dotty French, co-chairs

Our branch again will participate in the Parade of Homes (POH), from Sunday, June 20 (Father's Day) through Sunday, June 28. Tentative hours are:

- Saturdays: noon–9:00 PM
- Sundays: noon–5:00 PM
- Monday & Tuesday: 3:00–9:00 PM
- Wednesday: CLOSED
- Thursday & Friday: NOON–9:00 PM

We will have a sign-up sheet at our Annual Meeting on April 8. If you won't be at the meeting, contact Ellie, etacke@charter.net, or Dotty, dodoarbor@aol.com, to sign up.

Thank you for your participation in the past and your participation in 2009. It is greatly appreciated.

Proceeds of this fundraiser go to our local scholarship fund.

AAUW-TC: www.aauwtc.org
 AAUW-TC Blog: www.aauwtc.blogspot.com
 AAUW Michigan: www.aauwmi.org
 AAUW National: www.aauw.org

Mark these Changes in your Directory!



Phone Number—

Francis Alfs' phone should be 248-320-3651 (not area code 231)

Email Address—

Diane Charron has a new email address: dcharron12@charter.net

Wage Discrimination Measure becomes First Bill Signed into Law by New President

AAUW applauds President Barack Obama for signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restores the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allow employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive.

“President Obama has put pay discrimination at the top of the agenda, right where it belongs. The wage gap doesn’t just hurt working women, it hurts families as well,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE, who attended the signing ceremony. “We are especially pleased that this measure is the first bill moved by Congress and signed by our new president, sending a strong message that economic issues and pay equity are a top priority.”

Statistics on women in the workplace speak to the need for action. The average woman earns just 78 cents of every dollar earned by her male counterparts, and disparities appear just one year out of college—even for those with the same job and the same major. Women of color make even less.

(See *Ledbetter* on p. 4)

Vintage Fashion Show & Chocolate Decadence Buffet

The Grand Traverse Heritage Center will host the 14th Annual *Afternoon of Elegance* vintage fashion show, chocolate and tea at 2 PM, on Saturday, May 2, at the Heritage Center.

The popular program will feature elegant apparel from the 1800s to the 1940s. Attendees will sample wonderful chocolate desserts and tea at a pre-show gathering in the museum.

Tickets are \$20 per person or \$80 for a row of five chairs. Contact the Heritage Center at 231-995-0313 for more information or to get tickets.

The AAUW Book Sale Arises Once Again!

Start saving books for the AAUW-TC Book Sale, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 30–31, at the Heritage Center. This is the first book sale the branch has held in many years.

The proceeds from this sale will go to our scholarship fund.

We are looking for a few good women to be on the committee for this sale. Contact Shirley Murray if you would like to be on the committee or if you could help during the event.

We’re counting on you to donate books, help sell them, AND to tell your friends about the sale.

Read Any Good Books Lately?

Members of AAUW book groups have a ready reply to “Read any good books lately?” They meet monthly to discuss books ranging from non-fiction, biographies, and recent fiction.

They choose books that are either in soft cover and/or are available at discount from Horizon books. Some titles can be checked out at the Traverse Area District Library.

The Verna Mae book group meets at Horizon Books on the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM. Members take turns leading the discussion.

The group chooses books for the next year in June from reading lists and from suggestions by members. New members are always welcome. So set aside a time to read a good book each month and join us to share your insights.

Contact Maryln Lawrence at Glawrence10@charter.net for more information.



Start Walking Again Along the Boardman

Do you have the winter doldrums? Been cooped up inside for too long? Legs haven’t walked much further than from bedroom to kitchen? It’s time to get out and walk!

The Walking Group leaves the lobby of the library every Friday morning at 9:30 AM. Promptly at 9:30! If you’re late, just catch

up along the path.

Don’t worry about the pace. We walk a leisurely pace for an hour—30 minutes out and then back. It’s time for fresh air and a walk to welcome in spring. Please join us!

Dues Time Again!

It’s that dues time again! AAUW dues for the coming year are \$70 and should be paid by June 30 for the year July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010. And now National \$46 of the \$49 National dues is tax deductible!

Honorary life members owe only local dues in the amount of \$11. Dual members pay national (\$49) and state (ours are \$10) dues to the branch of their primary membership and local dues to both branches.

Make checks payable to AAUW and bring them to the next meeting or send them to Jan Coley, 5020 Lakeview Dr., Interlochen, MI 49643. Call Jan, 276-7150, should you have any questions.

Calendar

APRIL

- 1 **Writing Group.** Wed., 3–5 PM. Traverse Area District Library Study Room, second floor. Contact: Shirley Murray, sgibsonmurray@chartermi.net.
- 8 **Bridge Group.** Wed., 11:30 AM. Firefly Restaurant, 310 S. Cass St., TC. Contact: Cynthia Defoe, 932-1098.
- 8 **Annual Meeting & Potluck Supper.** Wed., 6 PM. Heritage Center, 322 6th St., TC. Contact: Shirley Murray, sgibsonmurray@chartermi.net.
- 9 **Evening Book Study.** Thurs. Book: *Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan. 6 PM dinner at Minerva's at Park Place Hotel. 7:30 pm discussion. Call: Deanna Kelly, 929-7146, for discussion location.
- 10 **Computer Group.** 1 PM. Topic: *Government Documents*. Osterlin Library computer training room. Contact: Shirley Murray, sgibsonmurray@chartermi.net.
- 15 **Lobdell's Lunch Bunch.** NOON. Lobdell's Restaurant at NMC Maritime & Culinary Center, 1701 E. Front St., TC (next to Senior Center). Reservations required. Call Alta Cameron, 995-0786.
- 16 **International Affairs Forum.** 5:15 reception; 6 PM speaker. Milliken Auditorium in the Dennon Museum, NMC campus. Tickets are \$10. Contact: Sandy Seppala, 421-3343; sansep19@earthlink.net.
- 18 **State Theatre Volunteers.** 12:30–4:30 pm. Contact: Bonnie, 929-2036, bkwillings@yahoo.com.

- 29 **Verna Mae Book Group.** Wed., 10:30–NOON. Book: *Wolves at the Door* by Judith Pearson. Horizon Books, lower level, 243 E. Front St., TC. Contact: Maryln Lawrence, 946-5453, glawrence10@charter.net.

MAY

- 6 **Writing Group.** Wed., 3–5 PM. Traverse Area District Library Study Room, second floor. Contact: Shirley Murray, sgibsonmurray@chartermi.net.
- 13 **Bridge Group.** Wed., 11:30 AM. Firefly Restaurant, 310 S. Cass St., TC. Contact: Cynthia Defoe, 932-1098.
- 14 **Evening Book Study.** Thurs. Potluck and book choosing at Payne's. Call Deanna Kelly, 929-7146, for location.
- 16 **State Theatre Volunteers.** 12:30–4:30 pm. Contact Bonnie, 929-2036, bkwillings@yahoo.com.
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- 27 **Verna Mae Book Group.** Wed., 10:30–NOON. Book: *River Town* by Peter Hessler. Horizon Books, lower level, 243 E. Front St., TC. Contact: Maryln Lawrence, 946-5453, glawrence10@charter.net.

JUNE

- 9 **Branch Meeting.** Tues., 6 PM. Supper, tour, & hike. Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Rd., 1.5 miles south of South Airport Rd. Contact: Shirley Murray, sgibsonmurray@chartermi.net.

Ledbetter *continued from p. 3*

Lilly Ledbetter is perhaps the best-known face of pay equity. She worked for nearly two decades at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Gadsden, AL. Despite receiving top performance awards, Ledbetter discovered that she had been paid significantly less than male co-workers with the same job. After her retirement, she filed suit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was awarded back pay and other remedies in a jury trial. The U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision not only erased Ledbetter's award, but also left women, minorities, and others in Ledbetter's situation with virtually no recourse to pay discrimination.

Equal Pay *continued from p. 1*

the Change until Women have Real Change.”

In Michigan, we are at a ratio of 69 cents to one dollar. This is an increase of 2 cents, but this is partially attributed to the fact that more men than women have been laid off in Michigan this past year. Thus, it is not good news.

As a branch, on March 13 we passed out equal pay cookies (cookies with a portion missing) at the Women's History Project event at NMC to bring attention to pay equity. On Equal Pay Day, I ask that the branch members send the “Keep the Change” e-cards, which are on the action network of the AAUW website, to our senators and other officials. Senator Levin is sponsoring the Fair Paycheck Act. Please urge Sen. Stabenow also to sponsor this bill.

Also I ask the membership to write letters to the local newspapers to bring attention to pay equity and Equal Pay Day.

Remember, this is a day we don't want to continue to “celebrate” and that will only happen when pay equity is achieved.

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April–May 2009
Newsletter for the
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