



Effects of the recession on Michigan women

—from the *Public Policy* newsletter, Sept. 2009

The Wage gap remains in place. On a national level, according to 2008 government census data, women made just over 77 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Per the National Women's Law Center, Michigan women were paid 72 cents for every dollar paid to a man. Michigan women with a bachelor's degree earned only 60 percent of the amount earned by Michigan men with a bachelor's. This impacts women as they age in terms of Social Security. The average annual Social Security payment for a single woman in Michigan was only \$12,072, while the average annual payment for a man was \$16,296.

This is not a time for employers to fall back on old stereotypes as men being the primary breadwinners. Nationwide about one fifth of the households are headed by a single working mother. Single mothers did even worse in Michigan, making 65 cents to every dollar earned by men. AAUW continues to work toward the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act (S.182/H.R. 12).

Health care. AAUW is not endorsing a particular piece of legislature, but is advocating for three key points to be included in the final legislation:

End the practice of "gender rating" where men and women are charged different premiums for individually purchased health-care plans. Most U.S. women are in good health with eight in ten reporting excellent, very good or good health in a recent Kaiser Women's Health Survey of 2,766 women.

(See *Recession* on p. 2)

October Branch Meeting—

Come to the Kickoff Breakfast

Saturday, October 17, 9:30 AM, \$5 at the door

Heritage Center

322 6th St. Traverse City

Guest speaker: Sally Doty,
president elect of the
Michigan AAUW

Food will be served and the meeting will follow.



We will have signups for interest groups.

Start thinking about what you might like to get together and work on with other great AAUW gals.

Some new interests noted in the survey from our April meeting were line dancing, knitting, cross stitch, jewelry making, gardens, crafts, and snow shoeing.

Welcome new members and bring prospective members!

Books delivered to schools and libraries

by Irene Brown, Books
for Schools chair

Since 1998, SAAUW-TC has participated in the Women's Book Project, which has as its goal the distribution of books featuring girls and women as the major subject.

Including this year, our Branch has distributed 400 books at a cost of \$2,604.00 to local elementary schools and libraries.

This year's book is *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* by Tanya Lee Stone. About the book:

1961. Nearly two decades before Sally Ride—there was Jerrie Cobb. Have you



(See *Books* on p. 4)

Mark your calendars!

by Deb Jackson,
program VP



Get out your planner, wall calendar, Blackberry or whatever you use and save the dates for our upcoming meetings. We hope to add some newness and excitement each time.

First is our Branch breakfast on Saturday, October 17 (see above).

The Holiday Gathering at Heritage Center will be on Wednesday, December 2, at 6 PM. We plan to do something different than the traditional silent auction. Some ideas are a cookie exchange, food auction or craft sale from the newly formed interest groups. More details to come. We may even have a holiday outfit contest, so start

(See *Programs* on p. 4)

It's the Start of a Busy Year!

Shirley Murray, President, Traverse City Area Branch

Welcome to another busy year for our branch! We have interesting and varied branch meetings lined up, and two new interest groups besides our usual groups. We'll provide some donations to the needy in our community, I'll continue to raise money by selling books on Amazon.com, and I hope you're already saving books for our sale next spring.

We have distributed the book we've chosen this year to area elementary schools and libraries too, thanks to money we've raised from the book sales at our branch meetings.

For our October Branch meeting, we will welcome our state president-elect, Sally Doty, a member of the Birmingham-Bloomfield branch. I hope you plan to join us, even for the first time. We have new members to welcome into our supportive and friendly membership. It's a time to meet chairs of our interest groups and committees and get an overall picture of the coming year. The breakfast, planned and prepared by Sandra McDonald and her team, will be exceptional.

I hope you'll take a look at our activities and interest groups and find at least one in which to get involved. The best way to meet people is to join one of our activities. And if you can find two other people who want to start an interest group to your own liking, start a new one. Make a new friend or two. Meet with others for lunch at Lobdell's. Or if this isn't the year to do all this, continue your support of AAUW and our branch.

Our branch has a website (www.aauwtc.org) where you will find our calendar, newsletter, and other information, AND a blog (www.aauwtcb.blogspot.com), where you can post your thoughts, invitations, activities and ideas in between our meetings. It's a great spot to have an interactive conversation. Bookmark them both and make it a habit to check out each site at least once a week.

Let me know what you like and don't like, and send me suggestions for how to make our branch more dynamic and active for you and the community.

We've had a rainy and cool Up North summer but it was wonderful to see all those snowbird faces. We'll miss you as you head south this year but we hope that you'll keep up with our branch, send us your news throughout the winter, and put our activities on your calendar when your return.

For the winterbirds, let's make this a winter to remember!



Recession *continued from p. 1*

Require coverage of women's reproductive health services. Women's reproductive health needs require them to get regular check-ups, whether or not they have children. Reproductive health care is a basic factor in women's overall health care.

Access to and coverage of preventive services and care. Cancer and heart disease are the leading cause of death of American women, which also can be prevented through screening, immunization, and education services. However, health care costs are increasingly acting as a barrier to health care for women. One in six privately insured women have reported that they have postponed or gone without services because of costs.

Women use more health-care services than men do, but face a higher level of health-care insecurity due to less income and more costs. In the past year, one in five women (20%) reported that they did not fill a prescription because of cost, compared to 14 percent of men.

It is important that we as AAUW members not let all the rhetoric distract from our goal of "increased access to quality affordable health care," per the 2009–2011 Public Policy Program.

Notepaper by branch member available!

Branch member, Judith Anderson, was contacted by AAUW to sell her notepaper.

You can buy it on the www.aauw.org site. At the top of the home page, click on "Shop AAUW". There, under "Branch Necessities," click on "Stationery & Writing". Judy's notepaper is "Restful note card set."

Information about Judy and her art is on the back of the note card.

Northern Views
October–November 2009
Newsletter for the
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN
TRAVERSE CITY AREA BRANCH
—Published bi-monthly—
Editor: Sandy Seppala
Send articles to:
604 2nd St.
Traverse City, MI 49684-2221
sansep19@earthlink.net

For Sale

- AAUW white scoop-neck, short-sleeved t-shirts, sizes S-M-L. \$10
- Black baseball cap with turquoise AAUW lettering, \$10.

Available at October branch while supplies last.

Improving the Status of Women Worldwide

Women are deprived of education and a meaningful role in society in many countries that are also impoverished, turbulent, and dangerous for the inhabitants. At the same time, women have more opportunities and education in more stable and prosperous countries. Thus, the importance of women's status is being recognized by "everyone from the World Bank to the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff to aid organizations like CARE."

These groups now believe that a focus "on women and girls is the most effective way to fight global poverty and extremism," according to Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn in an article in the August 23, 2009 *New York Times Magazine*.

This means that world development funds are increasingly flowing to women. In the article, titled "The Women's Crusade," the writers make policy recommendations and point out what is working now to help women gain dignity, education, and rights.

You can read the article online at <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/magazine/index.html>. The entire August 23rd issue of the Magazine was devoted to women's issues.

Kristof and WuDunn's article is part of their new book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, which will be published next month by Alfred A. Knopf. They also wrote *China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power* (1994) and *Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia*. In 2009, Kristof and WuDunn received the Dayton Literary Peace Prize's 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Volunteer Day added at State Theater

You, too, can have fun as a volunteer at the State Theatre. The Saturday group has been so successful that they have taken on a second volunteer slot.

If you are available on the second Thursday of the month, 12–3:15 PM and would like to work in concessions or as an usher, contact Bonnie Willings, 929-2036, bkwillings@yahoo.com.

You will receive training and will work with other experienced AAUW members.

Your "pay," in addition to having a great time, is a box of popcorn, a cup of soda, \$1 off in the parking structure, and a pass to another movie (plus being able to see the movie on the day you volunteer).

Meet Authors at the Opera House

Two authors of books that our book groups are reading this year will speak at the City Opera house in October. Tickets cost \$10.

Bich Minh Nguyen will speak at the Traverse City Opera House on Wednesday, October 14, as part the Great Michigan Read. Order them online or call the Opera House, 941-8082.

Ms. Nguyen is touring Michigan in support of the Michigan Humanities Council's Great Michigan Read, the statewide initiative, which started in July 2007. The Great Michigan Read is a community reading program, meant to encourage Michiganders to read and rediscover literature. It focuses on a statewide reading of Bich Minh Nguyen's *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, intended to encourage reading and discussion of a famous American author with strong ties to northern Michigan.

Stealing Buddha's Dinner is a memoir chronicling Nguyen's migration from Vietnam in 1975 and her coming of age in Grand Rapids in the 1980s. Along the way, she struggles to construct her own cultural identity from a menagerie of uniquely American influences.

TC Reads author, **Jerry Dennis**, will speak October 22, at 6:00 PM. Traverse City READS, a "One Book, One Community" literacy initiative, has selected *The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas* by Jerry Dennis as the focus for Northern Michigan's eighth annual community book club. Buy tickets at any library.

TC Reads celebrates the joys of reading and the common threads that unite us as a community by encouraging everyone to read and discuss this book.

Take advantage of these two opportunities to meet authors whose books are being read across the nation.

Just When You Thought...

You knew more than enough about poetry, the Poetry Circle promises to bring you new poems with **sex, drugs**, (and maybe **rock and roll**). Think "Leda and the Swan" (sex), "Romeo and Juliet" (sex and drugs) and Bruce Springsteen (rock and roll). Yes, Bruce Springsteen...one of our members thinks he should be America's Poet Laureate.

Come and join us to read, think, maybe argue, and certainly laugh.

Our next meeting is Sunday, November, 8, 3 PM, at the home of Mary Tremblay. We will meet at Jill's at 2:15 to carpool. Contact Jill Fenton, 935-0233 or jllstn@aol.com, for more information.

Welcome to our New Members!

Be sure to add them to your directory
AND welcome them at our next
meeting!

Dee (Despina) Werstine

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Lake Ann 49650
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BA, Univ. of Mich. Master's, EMU.
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Dorothy Marie Epple

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BA, Aurora Univ

MSW, Loyola Univ.

PHD, Inst. Institute Clinical
Social Work

Student Members

Sara Chauvette

441 E. State St.
Traverse City, MI 49686

Kourtney Russell

1701 E. Front St
Traverse City, MI 49686

More about computers

We won't have an AAUW
computer group this year.

However, if you still are interested in
learning more about computers, NMC
offers the following classes:

- **Beginning Computers.** Thursday,
October 1–15, 9:30 AM–NOON.
- **"How Do You Do That" on the
Internet.** Wednesday, October 14,
1–4 PM
- **Gadgets and Gizmos—Today's
Technology.** Tuesday, November 17,
1–3 PM

Check them out and be part of the
technology revolution! See you on
Facebook!

DISCUSS WAR ON DRUGS AND SOVIET REPUBLICS

by Sandy Seppala, international affairs
chair

Did you know that Latino drug
mafias are using poor West African
countries as staging for European drug
trafficking? We'll discuss all aspects of
this topic on October 19, which also is
the topic for the International Affairs
Forum at NMC the previous week.

On November 16, we'll discuss the
Russia and the former Soviet Republics
in Central Asia (note: this is a week
before the IAF lecture).

This is a time for learning so don't
feel like you have to have previous
knowledge on these topics. Watch the
newspaper for articles and check out
the Foreign Policy Association website:
<http://www.fpa.org/>.

The IATG will meet at 1 PM, at 604
2nd St. in TC.

Contact me if you plan to attend,
sansep19@earthlink.net, 421-3343.

Books continued from p. 1

*ever heard of her? Did you know there
were extraordinary women ready and able
to be astronauts at the very same time John
Glenn and Scott Carpenter were making
history? Yet they were turned away. No
women allowed.*

Of local interest is Bea Steadman,
one of the 13 women, who lives here in
Traverse City.

Programs continued from p. 1

thinking about how to get 'decked out'
for the holidays.

Looking ahead to 2010, plan to come
to these events too!

- February 2: General Meeting
with guest speaker
- April 13: General Meeting and
Potluck
- May 22–23: Book Sale

We have a great year ahead and I
hope to see you at all of our events!



TRAVERSE CITY AREA BRANCH BOARD

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Newsletter and International Affairs

Sandy Seppala: sansep19@earthlink.net

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Hospitality

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Evening Book Study

Deanna Kelly: dkelly538@gmail.com

Bridge

Cynthia DeFoe: kcde1cyn@chartermi.net

Lobdell Lunch

Alta Cameron: altacam@yahoo.com

State Theater Volunteers

Bonnie Willings: bkwillings@yahoo.com

Poetry Circle

Jill Fenton: jllstn@aol.com

International Affairs & Travel Group

Sandy Seppala: sansep19@earthlink.net

Calendar

Walking Group walks every Fri., 9:30–10:30 AM. Meet in TC Library Lobby at 9:25 AM.



OCTOBER

Poetry Circle.
No meeting in October.

- 7 **Writing Group.** Wed., 3–5 PM. Traverse Area District Library Study Room, second floor. Contact: Shirley, sgibsonmurray@chartermi.net.
- 8 **State Theatre Volunteers.** Thurs., Noon–3:15 PM. Contact Bonnie, 929-2036, bkwillings@yahoo.com.
- 8 **Evening Book Study.** Thurs., 7 PM. Book: *Nine* by Jeffrey Toobin. Contact: Deanna, 929-7146, dkelly538@gmail.com
- 14 **Bridge Group.** Wed., 11:30 AM. Firefly Restaurant, 310 S. Cass St., TC. Contact: Cynthia, 932-1098.
- 14 **Book & Author Night at the Opera House.** Wed., Oct. 14, 7 PM. \$10. Speaker: **Bich Minh Nguyen**, author of *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*.
- 15 **International Affairs Forum.** Thurs., 5:15 PM reception; 6 PM Forum. Topic: *The War on Drugs*. Speaker: **Juan Carlos Hidalgo**. Milliken Auditorium in the Dennos Museum, NMC campus. Buy tickets through NMC: \$10. Contact: Sandy, 421-3343; sansep19@earthlink.net.
- 16 **Branch Board Meeting.** Fri., NOON. TC Visitor's Center. Contact: Shirley, sgibsonmurray@chartermi.net.
- 17 **Branch Meeting Breakfast.** Sat., 9:30 AM. \$5 at the door. Speaker: **State AAUW President-Elect Sally Doty**. Grand Traverse Heritage Center, 322 6th St. Contact: Deb, 922-0449, deb.o.jackson@charter.net.
- 17 **State Theatre Volunteers.** Sat., NOON–3:00 PM. Contact Bonnie, 929-2036, bkwillings@yahoo.com.
- 19 **International Affairs and Travel Group.** Mon., 1 PM. Topic: *The War on Drugs*. 604 2nd St., TC. RSVP: Sandy, 421-3343, sansep19@earthlink.net.
- 22 **Book & Author Night at the Opera House.** Wed., 6 pm. Speaker: Jerry Dennis, local author of *The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas*.
- 28 **Verna Mae Daytime Book Group.** Wed., 10:30–NOON. Book: *City of Thieves* by David Benioff. Horizon Books, lower level, 243 E. Front St., TC. Contact: Maryln Lawrence, 946-5453, glawrence10@charter.net.
- 28 **Lunch at Lobdell's.** Wed., NOON. Reservations: Alta, 995-0786.
- 11 **Bridge Group.** Wed., 11:30 AM. Firefly Restaurant, 310 S. Cass St., TC. Contact: Cynthia, 932-1098.
- 12 **State Theatre Volunteers.** Thurs., NOON–3:15 PM. Contact Bonnie, 929-2036, bkwillings@yahoo.com.
- 12 **Evening Book Study.** Thurs., 7 PM. Book: *Women's Room* by Marilyn French. Contact: Deanna, 929-7146, dkelly538@gmail.com.
- 16 **International Affairs and Travel Group.** Mon., 1 PM. Topic: *Russia and the Former Soviet Republics in Central Asia*. 604 2nd St., TC. RSVP: Sandy, 421-3343, sansep19@earthlink.net.
- 19 **International Affairs Forum.** Thurs., 5:15 PM reception; 6 PM. Topic: Speaker: **Ambassador Michael G. Wygant**. Milliken Auditorium in the Dennos Museum, NMC campus. Buy tickets through NMC: \$10. Contact: Sandy, 421-3343; sansep19@earthlink.net.
- 20 **Branch Board Meeting.** Fri., NOON, Visitor's Center. Contact: Shirley, sgibsonmurray@chartermi.net.
- 21 **State Theatre Volunteers.** NOON–3 PM. Contact Bonnie, 929-2036, bkwillings@yahoo.com.
- 25 **Verna Mae Daytime Book Group.** Wed., 10:30–NOON. Book: *First Mothers* by Bonnie Angelo. Horizon Books, lower level, 243 E. Front St., TC. Contact: Maryln Lawrence, 946-5453, glawrence10@charter.net.



NOVEMBER

Lunch at Lobdell's.
No lunch in November.

- 4 **Writing Group.** Wed., 3–5 PM. Traverse Area District Library Study Room, second floor. Contact: Shirley, sgibsonmurray@chartermi.net.
- 8 **Poetry Circle.** Sun., 3 PM. Home of Mary Tremblay. Meet at 2:15 at Jill's to carpool. RSVP: Jill Fenton: 935-0233, jllstn@aol.com.

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

News Roundup from Home and Abroad

International Affairs Forum Announces Speakers

The theme for this year's IAF speaker's series is "It's a Small World." Most of the speakers for the IAF lecture series have been announced. The lectures are held at the Milliken Auditorium at the Dennon Museum on the NMC Campus. Everyone is invited to the 5:15 reception prior to the forum, which is from 6-7:15 pm. The cost is \$10. Note, a more effective microphone system is now in place.

The announced dates and speakers are:

Oct. 15: *The War on Drugs.* Juan Carlos Hidalgo, project coordinator for Latin America at the Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity.

Nov. 19: *Russia and the Former Soviet Republics in Central Asia.* Ambassador Michael G. Wygant. During his 32-year career with the State Department Mike had overseas postings in Zimbabwe (then Southern Rhodesia), Togo, the USSR, South Vietnam, The Gambia, Australia, and the Micronesian islands of the Pacific. In 1987, he was appointed by President Reagan to be the first chief of mission to the newly independent Federated States of Micronesia. Following retirement from State in 1990, he and his wife Lee moved to Scarborough, ME, from which base he assumed a second diplomatic career serving in leadership roles with the Organization for Security and Cooperation

in Europe at various posts in Eastern Europe and the former USSR.

April 15: *Asylum: A Lawyer's International Human Rights Pilgrimage.* Duane W. Krohnke is an adjunct professor with the University of Minnesota Law School.

May 20: *The International Automobile Business.* Dr. Mustafa Mohatarem is chief economist of General Motors Corp. He is an expert on trade issues.

Canadian Federation receives recognition for work on Resolution 1325

The Canadian Federation (CFUW) was recently invited to take part in "Until the Violence Stops" a special national event organized by the Canadian All Party Parliamentarian Group for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity. The meeting looked at ways Canada could help end the use of sexual violence as weapon in war. The invitation reflects growing recognition of the CFUW's role as one of the leading national proponents of Resolution 1325. This landmark resolution, adopted unanimously in 2000, calls for women and a gender perspective to be an integral part of all conflict resolution and peace-building efforts. Among its many provisions, the resolution specifically calls for special measures to protect women and girls from

gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.

—Source: International Federation
of University Women website

The Leaky Pipe

Women today form the majority of university students but few stay on to become professors or reach other higher academic positions. This "leaky pipeline" phenomena is most often associated with science and technology fields but also concerns research positions in the private sector.

What causes this steady attrition of women? A report by the European Commission suggests that women may drop out at the beginning of their careers due to lack of support, role models and mentorship. At later stages, women abandon their work mainly because they find it too hard to balance career with personal life. Flexible working arrangements are proposed at some places, but women taking advantage of these benefits are often seen as less committed to the job.

Women also often find a "chilly climate" at higher levels with unequal opportunities, isolation and exclusion due to the usual clichés and stereotypes of a "man's world".

—Source: Women in science and technology

AAUW-TC

Sandy Seppala, editor

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