

## President's Message



In January I received a message from Ruth Sweetser, our Association president, outlining some suggestions for New Year's resolutions. She suggested that we share our passion, speak our minds, and share our price.

- Specifically we can spread our passion by visiting the AAUW Member Center at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), often, to update ourselves and others on information and activities.

- We can speak our minds by joining AAUW's Action Network. It is surprisingly simple to make our voices heard by our legislators. Give it a try!
- We can share our price by boasting about AAUW's Educational Foundation fellowships and grants programs, LAF, and research. Also we can celebrate our states, branches, colleges, and universities, as well as individual members, for all they do for women and girls.

The AAUW and AAUW Educational Foundation boards are undertaking a broad strategic process to forecast the future of AAUW with a goal of ensuring AAUW's legacy of leadership for another 125 years. They ask that you be part of AAUW's participatory planning process by representing AAUW's current and future members.

- Individually, you can share your strategic process suggestions and concerns by e-mail at [strategic\\_process@aauw.org](mailto:strategic_process@aauw.org).
- The AAUW discussion board has a special forum that has been created for the strategic process. To access, go to [discuss.aauw.org](http://discuss.aauw.org) (or click the Discussion Boards link on the right side border of the main AAUW website page). After you open the discussion board, look for the AAUW Leader Forum, where the Strategic Process discussion board is listed.

The Reno Branch, Carleen Ernest, and Sue Welsch have been very busy. Our AAUW Nevada State Convention (April 21-23) should be the best ever. Please take the time now to fill out and mail the registration form that is included on the inside back cover of this newsletter. We have a very exciting program, complete with an LAF litigant!

Also included in this edition of *The Sagehen* are the preliminary details for the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference to be held in Casper, Wyoming, June 9-11.

—Mary Jane Evans  
President, AAUW Nevada  
[evans\\_mj@nvcbell.net](mailto:evans_mj@nvcbell.net)

## International Museum of Women

AAUW celebrates International Women's Day (March 8) by partnering with The International Museum of Women's (IMOW) "Imagining Ourselves" project. This online ([www.aauw.org/imow](http://www.aauw.org/imow)) and on-the-ground cultural and arts project reaches out to a new generation of women—one billion women between the ages of 20 and 35—to answer the question, "What defines your generation?" The online exhibit, a series of global gatherings, and a new book, *Imagining Ourselves*, provide a platform for young women to create change in their lives, their communities, and their world.

As a project partner, AAUW hopes our members of all ages will help spread the word. Branches can take advantage of this unique and exciting opportunity by helping create events to bring "Imagining Ourselves" to their communities.

Here are three ways your branch can get involved:

- Join the network of International Women's Day celebrations. Use the "Imagining Ourselves" toolkit to integrate young women into your event, or consider hosting a party just for "Imagining Ourselves" on another date. For access to the IMOW toolkit with promotional materials, please e-mail [program@aauw.org](mailto:program@aauw.org)

(continued on page 5)

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## State Convention 2006

Register now for the 2006 AAUW Nevada State Convention. (The registration form appears on the inside back cover of this newsletter.) The deadline for early registration is **April 5**.

This three-day event will be held the weekend of April 21 -23 at the Silver Legacy in downtown Reno (407 N. Virginia St). **Reserve your room** at the Silver Legacy (\$109 per night plus 13.5% tax and \$3 resort fee) by **March 22** using the AAUW group code: **AAUW06** (toll-free 800-687-8733).

The theme this year is *Education is the Gateway*. There's something for everyone.

On Saturday, a **Diversity** panel, moderated by Dr. Byllie Andrews, Professor of Education, will include Rita McGary, Reno Branch's diversity chair and Aldo Aguirre, Nevada Department of Education.

**Guest speakers** Gloria Dopf, Nevada Department of Education, and Doug Thunder, Nevada Deputy Superintendent of Education, will speak on **education funding and school legislation**.

**Chautauqua** performers will portray Elizabeth Palmer Peabody and Alice Smith, women who made marks in education, both nationally and locally.

Saturday night's **keynote speaker** will be Dr. Meggin McIntosh, a dynamic and nationally acclaimed presenter on excellence.

Thanks to a Travel Grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation, one of our guests for the weekend will be **LAF plaintiff** Dr. Patricia Washington, who will speak about her case and LAF's support on Sunday morning. Dr. Washington is a former assistant professor in the women's studies department at San Diego State University in California. She has sued the university for race and sex discrimination in the denial of tenure and for retaliation for complaints about that discrimination.

For up-to-the-minute details, see the AAUW Nevada web site ([www.aauwnv.org](http://www.aauwnv.org)). For further information, call me or Martha Gould (775-747-0777; [mgould@unr.edu](mailto:mgould@unr.edu)) or Joyce Destefanis (775-852-0275; [jdestefanis@earthlink.net](mailto:jdestefanis@earthlink.net)).

*Carleen Ernest*  
AAUW Nevada Program VP  
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(775) 787-8779

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## Education is the Gateway— Convention Agenda Silver Legacy, Reno, NV

### Friday, April 21

7-9 p.m. Welcome Party, Silver Legacy Hospitality Suite

### Saturday, April 22

8-9 a.m. Registration & Networking, Silver Legacy Convention Floor

9-9:30 Flag Ceremony, Welcome to Reno, Opening Remarks

9:30-10:30 Diversity Panel Discussion

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-noon Gloria Dopf, NV Dept. of Education, "No Child Left Behind"  
Doug Thunder, NV Deputy Supt. of Education, "School Funding"

12-12:15 Networking

12:15-1:30 Lunch; Irish Dancers

1:30-2:30 Chautauqua presentation, "Women in Education"

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-4:45 Business Meeting, Elections, Branch Sharing

5-6 Cocktails & Networking

6-7:30 Dinner

7:30-8:30 Dr. Meggin McIntosh, "What are the Keys? Emphasis on Excellence"

### Sunday, April 23

8:30-9:30 Breakfast Buffet & Networking

9:30-10:30 Dr. Patricia Washington, LAF plaintiff

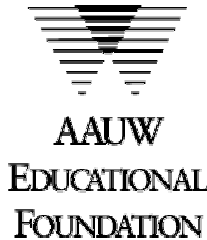
10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-noon Business Meeting, Committee Reports, End of Session

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## Educational Foundation

A big thanks to all the branches and EF chairs who raised money for the Educational Foundation this year. I have no figures to report yet but will have the information at the State Convention.



We have also been asked to have items for a raffle for the State Convention. I am requesting each branch Educational Foundation chair be responsible for bring a donation from her branch. A basket of some sort would be appropriate or a handmade item (floral arrangement, something knitted or crocheted, baked goods, art work), crystal, china, collectibles, whatever—just use your imagination. I would like to keep the value in the \$20 to \$50 range. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. We'll sell tickets Friday evening and all day Saturday and hold the drawings at the banquet Saturday evening and at the breakfast on Sunday. If you have questions, please e-mail or call me.

*Arlene R. Summerhill*

AAUW Nevada Educational Foundation Chair  
summerhill@sierra.net  
775-826-7109

## AAUW Nevada Elected Officers

<b>President:</b>	Mary Jane Evans evans_mj@nvcbell.net
<b>President-Elect:</b>	Byllie D. Andrews byllie@charter.net
<b>VP Program:</b>	Carleen Ernest ccjernest@aol.com
<b>VP Membership:</b>	Shirley Hoffman aauw@cox.net
<b>Secretary:</b>	Patricia Aiken patricia.aiken@worldnet.att.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joyce Destefanis jdestefanis@earthlink.net

## Public Policy Report

### *Supreme Court Rules*

On January 18, 2006, the US Supreme Court unanimously decided to return the case of *Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England et al.* to the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit to reconsider whether the law should be voided in its entirety or only in cases where there are health questions. The Supreme Court made its decision in recognition of its precedent that abortion laws must protect women's health and safety. The *Ayotte* case was a challenge to New Hampshire parental consent law, which was struck down by the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit because it did not contain an exception from the parental notification requirement in cases involving medical emergencies.

### *NCAA Moves*

The National Collegiate Athletic Association announced at its convention on January 8, 2006, the creation of a task force to address the situation in which almost 90 percent of men's teams and almost 60 percent of women's teams at the largest universities are coached by white men.

### *Women Presidents*

On January 15, 2006, Socialist Party candidate Michelle Bachelet was elected president of Chile. Bachelet is a divorced single mother and a pediatrician. She will be the country's first woman president.

On January 16, 2006, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was inaugurated president of Liberia. She is the first woman president of Liberia and in all of Africa.

### *Resources*

AAUW's 2005-2007 Public Policy Program brochures are available free from [helpline@aauw.org](mailto:helpline@aauw.org) or 800-326-2289.

*Action Alert*, AAUW's monthly public policy newsletter, provides an overview of congressional or executive branch action on AAUW priority issues. Subscribe or read it on-line in the Member Center at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

*Valerie McNay*  
AAUW Nevada Public Policy Co-chair  
[vjm50@earthlink.net](mailto:vjm50@earthlink.net)  
702-294-4204

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## International Affairs

### *UN Commission on the Status of Women*

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! I have the privilege of attending the Commission session February 27-March 9 in New York City. Because AAUW does not have recognition with the UN Economic and Social Council (of which the CSW is a part), I will be participating as part of the IFUW delegation. Carolyn Donovan, the AAUW UN representative, will participate as part of the Virginia Gildersleeve delegation.

In 2005, AAUW was allowed a delegation to the CSW Beijing Plus 10 because of its active participation in the UN Beijing Women's Conference. How exhilarated I felt to be involved in the workshops, general sessions, plenaries, and excitement of over 6,000 women exchanging ideas and networking on ways to make our world a better place. I look forward to reporting to you about the 2006 CSW proceedings.

### *Branch Project Papers*

A major priority of the AAUW International Affairs Committee is to involve branches in global issues. In this spirit, each committee member has authored a document with suggestions for branch involvement in specific areas. These are:

- Women, Peace, and Security (Carolyn Donovan)
- Trafficking of Women and Children (Claritza Jimenez)
- Economic, Social, and Political Development of Women (Bonnie Lincoln)
- Education of Women and Children (Esther Mabry)
- Citizen Diplomacy (Joanne Clark)
- IFUW (Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi)

If your branch wants any of these documents, I will be happy to send them electronically!

### *Great Decisions*

Congratulations to Capital Branch, which has recently inaugurated a Great Decisions interest group! Am I correct that the following branches have on-going Great Decisions discussion groups: Las Vegas and Reno? Do any other branches participate? Thank you for letting me know!

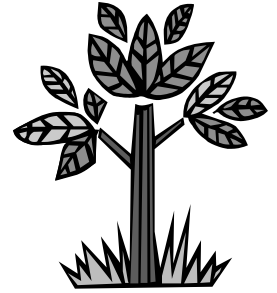
*Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi*  
AAUW International Affairs Committee Chair  
AAUW Nevada International Affairs Liaison  
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## In the Branches

### *Tahoe Nevada*

AAUW is not only an organization that gets women together for meetings and speakers; we are also very involved in many facets dealing with the lives and education of women, as well as our communities. I am proud to announce that Incline Village recognized Tahoe Nevada Branch's contributions for a second time in as many years and awarded the branch the **Community Service Organization of 2005** at an annual Chamber of Conference luncheon held at the Lone Eagle Grill on January 26. I want to thank all of our members who helped us earn this award through their community involvement, particularly Paula Bender, Barbara Richards, Jan Horan, Julie Marigold, Sarah Horton, Maureen Dudley, Joan Nygren, Michelle Claugus, Susan Haynes, and Holly Lefkowitz.



In February, the branch held a "razzle dazzle night of romance" with wine- and chocolate-tasting presented by the Village Gourmet along with beautiful jewelry, perfect for Valentine's gifts, available for sale from the Hub brothers and Incline Jewelry to help make the weekend before Valentine's Day special. The money we raised will help pay for insurance, tax accounting, and other mandatory costs that our branch must pay in today's world. Everyone who attended enjoyed a very special evening.

*Randi Moore*  
Tahoe Nevada Branch President

### *Bylaws Reminder*

All branches must revise their bylaws this year to include language regarding the new membership requirements. In addition, the timeframe for discontinuing a branch has changed. If you need the specifics of the changes or have other questions, please contact me.

*Janet Traut*  
AAUW Nevada Bylaws Chair  
jtraut@ag.state.nv.us  
775-825-3403

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## Diversity Project

At the State Presidents' meeting in June 2000, AAUW's diversity statement was amended to include the word "class." (See the exact wording of AAUW's diversity statement on the back cover of *The Sagehen*.) That was a huge change.

I think we, as this wonderful group of women with various backgrounds and experiences, should gather for an interactive workshop and explore issues regarding class in the United States. What are the hidden rules of the lower class? How do these rules affect access to education and opportunities? Have things really changed for the better for this class of people? What are some of the real, "getting down and dirty and involved" projects we can help this very needful and deserving class of people with? How can we be a very real part of the process? How can we really put our diversity statement to work?

Please give me some feedback on this, and I will let you know what I am thinking. I saw a beautiful program on TV this morning; a group like AAUW did such a special project in their city, and the difference was so contagious in a positive way that it took my breath away. I am so ready for this kind of project! Call me with your ideas; let's talk!

*Kristin Thomas*  
AAUW Nevada Diversity Chair  
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775-725-3552  
702-277-5829

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(International Museum of Women, continued from p. 1)

- Host a community gathering or discussion in your branch using the discussion guides provided each month (March through June) that mirror the monthly theme of the IMOW online exhibit. These gatherings will allow your community members to engage in discussion of topics central to young women's lives.
- Integrate your ongoing events into the "Imagining Ourselves" calendar. If your branch is already hosting events with similar themes as the "Imagining Ourselves" project, consider adding them to the exhibit's online calendar.

A companion book, *Imagining Ourselves: Global Voices from a New Generation of Women* by Paula Goldman and Isabelle Allende, will be released on or about March 12, 2006. (Link to Amazon books at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).)

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## Drawing the Line



On January 24, 2006, at the National Press Club, the AAUW Educational Foundation released its newest research report, *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*. This report presents the most comprehensive findings to date on sexual harassment on college campuses. This is the first of a series of research reports that will focus on the issue of higher education as the gateway to women's economic security.

The report describes findings from a nationally representative survey of undergraduate college students conducted in the spring of 2005 by Harris Interactive, Inc. It contributes to our understanding of how college students perceive, experience, and respond to sexual harassment and provides useful information for creating a campus climate that is free from bias and harassment. The following summarizes the main findings:

### 1. Sexual harassment is widespread on college campuses.

- Nearly two-thirds of college students (62 percent) say they have encountered some type of sexual harassment while at college. This means that about six million college students are sexually harassed nationwide; on a campus of 10,000 students, roughly 6,000 are harassed.
- Nearly one-third of students (35 percent of female students and 29 percent of male students) say they have experienced physical harassment, such as being touched, grabbed, or pinched in a sexual way.
- Sexual comments and jokes are the most common form of harassment. More than half of female students (57 percent) and nearly half of male students (48 percent) say they have experienced this type of harassment.

### 2. Sexual harassment takes an especially heavy toll on female students.

- More than two-thirds (68 percent) of female students who experience harassment feel very or somewhat upset by it. Conversely, only one-third (35 percent) of male students admit to being very or somewhat upset by their experiences with sexual harassment.

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- More than half of female students who were harassed (57 percent) say they felt self-conscious or embarrassed, and a similar number (55 percent) said they felt angry. Among female students who encountered harassment, a third (32 percent) said they felt afraid and one-fifth (18 percent) said that they were disappointed in their college experience as a result of sexual harassment.

### **3. Most students don't report sexual harassment to a college employee and many tell no one.**

- Only 7 percent of students reported sexual harassment to a faculty member or other college employee. Almost no one spoke with a college employee who they knew was a Title IX officer.
- More than half of students (57 percent) would like their college or university to offer a web-based confidential method for submitting complaints about sexual harassment. Nearly half (47 percent) would like their college or university to designate an office or person to contact about sexual harassment.
- More than one-third of students (35 percent) tell no one. Almost half (49 percent) tell a friend.

Do your part to raise awareness about sexual harassment. Send a letter to the editor of your local papers. AAUW's Two-Minute Activist has message points and contacts ([capwiz.com/aauw](http://capwiz.com/aauw)).

## **LAF Plaintiff to Speak**

Dr. Patricia Washington, former assistant professor in the women's studies department at San Diego State University (SDSU) and the plaintiff in an LAF-supported sex and race discrimination suit, will speak at the AAUW NV State Convention.

Dr. Washington began working at SDSU in 1996 as the first black tenure-track professor in the women's studies department's 30-year history and remained the only full-time non-white tenure-track professor in the department throughout her employment.

Despite her strong record of service, teaching, and professional growth and despite being judged on three separate and progressively more stringent sets of tenure requirements, Washington was denied tenure in 2002, and SDSU terminated her employment at the end of the 2002-2003 academic year.

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## **Status of Nevada Women and Girls**

The Nevada Women's Fund has released the *Status of Women and Girls in Nevada*, a comprehensive report developed to provide the data needed to identify and eliminate barriers facing Nevada women and girls and aid in decision-making. Some Nevada facts reported:

- 20.5% of women with no husband present live in poverty (36.5%, if they have children under 5) and 7.5% of all families live in poverty. Only 47% of child support due in 2004 was distributed.
- 40.6% of low-income women (and 18.5% of all women) have no health insurance.
- Females graduate from high school at higher rates than males and out-number them on college campuses.
- Women earn relatively low wages and hold low percentages of professional and managerial positions although Nevada's economy is strong, with low unemployment and poverty. Women's pay is 81% of men's, higher than the 75% national average, mostly because Nevada men earn \$3,000 less than the US median.
- Nevada is now more diverse racially than the rest of the country.
- The rate of suicide among Nevada women is the highest in the country.

For more information contact the Nevada Women's Fund (775-786-2335).

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Washington filed a complaint with the EEOC, which found in her favor, but conciliation efforts with SDSU where unsuccessful, leading Washington to sue the California State University and Colleges system in 2003. Washington's case is currently filed with the California appellate court after the trial court dismissed the case in its entirety in what Washington's attorney called a "surprising and very disturbing" decision by the trial court judge.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) adopted Washington's case in February 2004 and has contributed over \$17,000 to the case to date. LAF provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination. It is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education.

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# Education is the Gateway

## 2006 AAUW Nevada State Convention

April 21-23

Silver Legacy, Reno, Nevada

### Convention Registration Form

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Branch or State Office \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee (by April 5)		\$ 30.00	_____
Late Registration or On-Site Registration (after April 5)		\$ 40.00	_____
Friday, April 21	Reception at Silver Legacy AAUW Hospitality Room Hosted by Reno Branch members	\$ 5.00	_____
Saturday, April 22	Lunch Grilled Breast of Chicken, sautéed with Tomato Mushroom Tarragon Sauce and served on a Bed of Spinach, with Buttered Egg Noodles	\$ 18.50	_____
	Banquet Choose: Baked Filet of Salmon in a Parsley and Tarragon Crust, with Lime Butter Sauce	\$ 34.00 Guest	_____ _____
	Or: Roast Prime Rib of Beef with Rosemary Juices	\$34.00 Guest	_____ _____
	Keynote Speaker Only (no dinner)	\$ 10.00	_____
Sunday, April 23	Breakfast Orange Juice, Fresh Fruit Cocktail, Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Ham, Sausage, & Bacon, Breakfast Potatoes, Freshly Baked Pastries	\$16.00	_____
Sunday Registration Only		\$ 5.00	_____
		<b>Total:</b>	_____

Vegan substitutions are available on request. Check here: \_\_\_\_\_

#### REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 5, 2006

Send completed registration form and payment (payable to AAUW Nevada) to:

Rita Malkin, 1705 Burwood Circle, Reno, NV 89521

Special Needs or Accommodations? Questions?

Call Rita at 775-852-3938 or e-mail at [renorita22@sbcglobal.net](mailto:renorita22@sbcglobal.net)

Remember to make hotel reservations with Silver Legacy before March 22. See information on page 2.

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because  
**equity**  
is  
still  
an **issue**

**Mission Statement:** The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

**AAUW Educational Foundation:** The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

**AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund:** The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

**Diversity Statement:** In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

If you have not renewed your AAUW Nevada membership for 2005-2006 (through your branch or as a Nevada MAL), we hope that you'll enjoy this complimentary copy of *The Sagehen* and that you'll renew your membership right away so that you don't miss out on future AAUW Nevada news!

Correct mailing of AAUW Nevada's newsletters depends on an accurate member database, both USPS and e-mail. If you relocate, please notify AAUW Nevada treasurer, Joyce Destefanis. This will ensure that you receive your copy of *The Sagehen* and also AAUW's national publications and mailings.

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ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

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