



AMERICAN
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WOMEN

THE FORUM

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President's Notes ***Sonya Bertini***

Lately I am receiving lots of positive news from the AAUW Action Network and Washington Update. On March 11, President Obama signed an executive order creating a White House Council on Women and Girls. The new office was a high priority recommendation from AAUW to the presidential transition team. The formation of this council was spurred on by AAUW's leadership to reestablish critical women's programs in the executive branch. The council will begin its work by asking federal agencies to analyze their current status with respect to internal and external focus on women. It will then undertake a variety of initiatives designed to promote interagency collaboration and a coordinated federal response in addressing critical issues facing women and their families, and further policy initiatives to advance gender equity. In the words of Lisa M. Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations "President Obama has demonstrated that he shares our commitment to women and girls through such actions as signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law and repealing the global gag rule. The action today builds on those early successes and will pave the way for further opportunities to advance AAUW's mission for women and girls". It is fabulous to see that AAUW is being listened to so closely by the new administration

Celebrate Earth Day ***Sonya Bertini***

Celebrate Earth Day by doing something good for our community!
Join us on Saturday, April 18th for a "clean up" at Birch Grove Park in Northfield. This is the third year in a row that we spend a few hours cleaning up litter at Birch Grove Park. It is fun and good for the environment. Join us at 10:00 am in the park and then stay for a potluck picnic at 11:30 am. If you do not feel up to the clean up, just join us for the picnic. We would love to have you! For more information call Sonya Bertini or Betsy Reed.



New Discoveries at the AAUW.ORG Website



Each month as I put together The Forum, I find that I need small informative articles to act as “fillers”. In my quest for additional information, I generally begin my search at the AAUW website. Each search of this amazing website is an adventure as I travel from link to link finding new nuggets of information. This month was no exception. I found AAUW’s Blog today. It is called “AAUW Dialog” and it can be accessed at <http://blog-aauw.org/>. I encourage you to follow this link to read an editorial concerning President Obama’s creation of the White House Council on Women and Girls. Once there make your own new discoveries and perhaps even sign up to receive blog posts via email.

Sandy Swain

AAUW Applauds Formation of White House Council on Women and Girls *Source: WWW.AAUW.org*

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama will sign an executive order creating a White House Council on Women and Girls at an East Room ceremony this afternoon. The new office was a high-priority recommendation from AAUW to the presidential transition team.

"AAUW is delighted that President Obama has decided to formally give women and girls a seat at the White House table," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE, who will attend the White House signing ceremony. "The council will help ensure that the unique issues and challenges facing women and girls continue to be at the forefront of the administration’s policies and priorities."

The formation of the White House Council on Women and Girls was spurred on by AAUW’s leadership to reestablish critical women’s programs in the executive branch. In December, AAUW spearheaded a letter to the Obama transition team requesting that the new administration restore and strengthen all offices that in past administrations have played a fundamental role in protecting and advancing women’s issues and opportunities.

"The creation of the White House Council on Women and Girls is the first and most critical step in fulfilling the recommendations made in the AAUW letter, which was signed by more than 40 organizations committed to women’s rights," Hallman said.

"Today's executive order is a victory not only for AAUW but for the millions of women and girls who once again have a pipeline directly into the White House," said Lisa M. Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "President Obama has demonstrated that he shares our commitment to women and girls through such actions as signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law and repealing the global gag rule. The action today builds on those early successes and will pave the way for further opportunities to advance AAUW’s mission for women and girls."

The White House Council on Women and Girls will be chaired by Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett, while

(Continued on page 3)

AAUW Applauds Formation of White House Council on Women and Girls-continued
Source: WWW.AAUW.org

Office of Public Liaison Director Tina Tchen will be the council's executive director. It will be comprised of senior-level administration and executive branch officials, including top Cabinet-level staff. The council will begin its work by asking federal agencies to analyze their current status with respect to internal and external focus on women. It will then undertake a variety of initiatives designed to promote interagency collaboration and a coordinated federal response in addressing critical issues facing women and their families, and further policy initiatives to advance gender equity.

Maatz noted that previous entities that existed during the Clinton administration, such as the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach and the President's InterAgency Council on Women, performed similar functions and were successful in their efforts but then were disbanded by President George W. Bush. "President Obama is sending a strong signal by providing this platform for the development and implementation of new ideas. We look forward to working with the council to cement the gains we've made and to continue to make real progress for women and girls," said Maatz.

To read AAUW's 2009–10 federal public policy agenda, visit
www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/upload/fedpolicyagenda.pdf.

To read the letter to the Obama transition team, visit
www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/upload/WomenAdminObamaLetterWeb.pdf.

AAUW Online Museum - Another New Discovery



Through the AAUW Online Museum, AAUW is pleased to share our rich history as a leader in promoting equity for women and girls for more than 125 years. The Internet and technology allow us now to share this history in a new and exciting way — reaching AAUW members and others who care about advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. We hope that many people around the world who have an interest in women's history and American history will discover that our online museum provides a unique historical and social perspective. Just a few of the highlights include AAUW's work to aid women refugees during World War II, our early advocacy on pay equity, our strong voice for democracy amid McCarthyism, and our significant contributions to U.S. educational history. You will also discover that many of the issues for which AAUW has provided strong leadership in the past are just as relevant today. After touring the museum, you can easily join or support AAUW. We also encourage you to make your voice heard on today's important issues affecting women and girls. Again, we welcome you to the AAUW Online Museum and to AAUW itself.

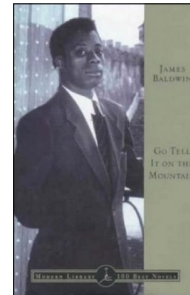
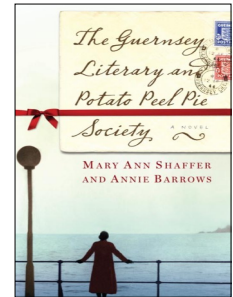
Visit the AAUW Online Museum at: <https://svc.aauw.org/museum/welcome/index.cfm>

Book Group *Mary Lou Breidenstine*

Join us on Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 at Sally Roik's to participate in a discussion of "Brideshead Revisited" by Evelyn Waugh. Diana Intenzo will lead us in what should be a spirited debate.

"The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Anne Schaffer will be the topic of the Wednesday, May 6 meeting which will be held at Jan Smith's at 7:30. Gail Vreeland will lead a discussion on this thought provoking book.

Save the date: Saturday, May 16. That is when we will meet at Carolyn Bassett's to discuss James Baldwin's classic, "To Tell It on the Mountain." Carolyn will be preparing lunch, so be sure to notify her if you plan to attend. Anyone who attended the birthday tea for Helen Riso knows what a treat this will be.



Birthday Surprise for Helen Riso *Book Club Members*



The book club celebrated Helen Riso's 90th birthday with a surprise party on Wednesday, March 11th. The hostess was Carolyn Bassett who prepared an elegant tea party at her home!

April 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 10:00am Earth Day Clean-up at Birch Grove Park
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Forum Newsletter Deadline:

15th of every month

Send information to Sandy Swain

The **American Association of University Women** promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and a positive societal change. The **AAUW Educational Foundation** provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and societal change. **The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination. In principal 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 or disability.

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