

## Advocacy Works

For those of you who contacted your members of Congress about the legislation below, give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done.

—Mary Stephens and Mary Peterson

### Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Signed

President Bush signed the VAWA reauthorization bill into law on Jan. 5. In addition to reauthorizing the expiring portions of VAWA, this legislation also

- Provides funding for programs that provide direct services to victims of sexual assault;
- Protects domestic violence victims from being evicted from public housing and from losing housing subsidies as a result of the criminal acts of their abusers;
- Creates a national resource center to help employers understand and appropriately respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims' needs at work; and
- Protects trafficking victims by reuniting them with family members from abroad (who may have been under threat by the traffickers) and increases access to permanent residency for those who cooperate in traffickers' prosecution.

AAUW had been advocating for a strengthened VAWA in this reauthorization, and is pleased Congress passed a good bill and that the president wasted no time in signing it.

### Labor-HHS-Education Spending Bill

On December 30, President Bush signed into law the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. Included in the bill is \$2.96 million for the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) for FY06, a decrease of \$20,000 below FY05. AAUW advocated for funding for WEEA and is pleased that it has been funded. Under the administration's budget request, this program would have been eliminated completely.

## Winston-Salem: Membership Incentives Work!

Responding to AAUW's offer of reduced pricing for new members joining at open meetings, the Winston-Salem Branch has sponsored two such events in this fiscal year. Members provided names of potential members to the membership vice-president. Out of 33 invitations, 14 members joined as a result of the Fall Tea. Some of the individuals were subsequently invited to the Winter Luncheon in January. Three additional new members joined at that event. Orientation manuals have been developed and integrated with the original Handbook and two orientation sessions have been conducted.

While planning is in process to reach out to associate degree graduates, one graduate of a two-year program already has joined. The membership committee will further pursue this group over the next several months.

—Patricia S. Tilley

## Wilmington Extends Invitation

Wilmington Branch invites members of AAUW NC branches to participate our Saturday, February 18, 10 a.m. event. Presenters will share information on the topic: *Legal Advocacy at Work*, at the Northeast Library in Wilmington. The presenters are: Dr. Tanya Suarez, local chair of the Legal Advocacy Fund and is Lill Van Order, AAUW NC Legal Advocacy Fund chair.

Information: Phyllis Guberman, President, Wilmington Branch, [gubermanj@bellsouth.net](mailto:gubermanj@bellsouth.net)  
—Marva S. Moss

## Member Connections

- Mary Lasher, [tomary2@charter.net](mailto:tomary2@charter.net)
- Louise Pickersgill, [pickersgilljohn@bellsouth.net](mailto:pickersgilljohn@bellsouth.net)
- Richard A. Jackson, husband of Lola Jackson, AAUW NC College/University chair, died suddenly in December. All who know her send their deepest sympathy.

## Wilmington Honors Members with EF Contributions

Wilmington Branch has honored three members with a \$3,000 contribution to the Educational Foundation. Phyllis Vogel, Hope Cusick and Rosemary Toumey, have given many hours of service and support to AAUW.

Vogel was honored with a \$1,000 contribution to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award. She joined the Wilmington Branch in 1977 and was secretary for two terms. She also chaired the 'Eyes to the Future' program. Under this program approximately 6000 children have their eyes tested each year by a trained team of volunteers. Vogel spoke at the state convention last year in Asheville regarding this very important program.

Cusick was honored with a \$1,000 contribution to the Selected Professions Fellowships. She transferred from the AAUW Long Island Branch to Wilmington in 1995. She was program Vice President for six years. She ran the Book and Author Tea and many AAUW luncheons. She was President of our branch in 2004-2005. Hope has published a book of poetry which is called *Whispers of Poetry*. Her book is posted on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Toumey was honored with a \$1,000 a contribution to Career Development Grants. She joined the Wilmington Branch in 2002. She co-chaired the Author's Luncheon for two years. This luncheon is our major fund raiser for the Educational Foundation. She is involved in the foreign relations group through AAUW and has volunteered helping many other committees.

—Dianne G. Perry, EF Chair

## NCWU Gears Up for Women's Agenda Assemblies

Nancy Shoemaker  
AAUW NC President-Elect

In January, N.C. Women United released its newsletter – really a report on what it has done in 2005. Some of you have received that and a copy of its report card on the 2005 legislative session in the USMail. If you weren't on the mailing list and would like to be more 'in touch' with what NCWU is doing, please go to [www.ncwu.org](http://www.ncwu.org) to download the newsletter, or contact Barbara Ann Hughes (the AAUW NC representative to NCWU) or me for more information.

In particular, NCWU sponsors the Women's Agenda Assemblies in the fall of even years, so the process of recruiting locations for those events and advocates to write the papers in the draft agenda will be starting soon. If your branch would like information on sponsoring an agenda assembly, or if you know someone who would like to help prepare/review information on AAUW issues in NC, please let me know.

## Chapel Hill Opens Meetings to Public

Chapel Hill Branch has opened its monthly programs to the public at no charge, with no membership requirements. The branch has been fortunate in obtaining outstanding speakers for its meetings this year. In the first three months of 2006, they will hear from Florence Soltys, professor of Medical Social Work, Health Care in NC with an emphasis on UNC Hospitals, *What We are doing to Save the Environment* will be discussed by Rick Shaw, manager, Soil Conservation in Orange County, and in March, Elizabeth Spencer, award-winning author of *Light in the Piazza*, a short story, movie and Tony-winning musical, will discuss her writing.

Members of the Branch believe that opening these programs will serve our obligation to offer educational opportunities to the community as well as to make people aware of our name and our mission. A continental breakfast is served at all meetings. The business meeting will follow the program so that non-members may leave.

—Mary Paterson

## Lecture Offered at Meredith

Meredith College will welcome Doctors Without Borders U.S. Executive Director Nicolas de Torrent on Thursday, February 16 at 7 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. The lecture is free and open to the public. The lecture by de Torrent is part of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Presidential Lecture Series at Meredith College. See [www.meredith.edu/owor/](http://www.meredith.edu/owor/) and [www.meredith.edu/mcnews/doctors-without-borders.htm](http://www.meredith.edu/mcnews/doctors-without-borders.htm)

## Women of the World Forum Series

Exploris, 201 E. Hargett St., Raleigh, [www.exploris.org](http://www.exploris.org)

Three sessions, featuring two distinguished speakers at each:

- Sunday, February 19, *10 Years After Beijing: The Status of Women's Rights Around the World*, 2-4 p.m., Zanzibar Room
- Sunday, April 23, *Women at the Heart of the Community's Health: An International Perspective*, 2-4 p.m., Zanzibar Room
- Sunday, May 7, *Global Economic Development through Investment in Women*, 2-4 p.m., Zanzibar Room. Betty Bayless, Director, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (NY, NY) is a keynote speaker.

## Correction

- An article in the winter *Tar Heel News* incorrectly stated the Stine Schaffmeyer grant is from Wilmington. It is not. It is from Brevard Branch. Please accept our apologies.

—Editor

## New Year Brings New Opportunities

Leslie Henderson, South Atlantic Region (SAR) Director

These post-holiday months always seem to be the busiest time for AAUW members. I'm sure you're preparing for spring fund-raisers, state conventions and elections of new officers. I wish you well in all your endeavors, and look forward to meeting many of you as I make the rounds of almost all your conventions. I urge you all to attend your state conventions. It is an occasion that allows you to network with friends and colleagues, to share best practices, to learn more about the organization, to meet state and national AAUW leaders, and to hear provocative and entertaining speakers.

In the midst of all this activity, however, please don't lose sight of some new and exciting communications opportunities. A values discussion guide will be included in the January issue of *EdEqChange*, [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/leader\\_corner/EdEqChange/EdEqChange.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/leader_corner/EdEqChange/EdEqChange.cfm), which supports a 30-45 minute session for your branches. The Association is reaching out to request your ideas on what are the core values of AAUW. For those of you who have done strategic planning, either in the workplace or in your volunteer lives, you know that before we can talk about visions and goals, we must have a consensus as to our core values. Please make time in all your branches for this critical task. It is unprecedented that a grassroots organization the size of ours is making a best effort to include everyone's voice in its strategic planning process.

In the same vein, I hope all of you took a moment to fill out the Every Member Poll. This is our opportunity for every member to affect the direction of AAUW in its programming, communications, and public policy.

Finally, at your conventions, you will have a chance to let your voices be heard at the open forums and town halls. Let's celebrate a new decade of open and effective communications!

Thank you for all that you do for AAUW.



## Help Fight Human Trafficking

- The Charlotte Observer recently published a number of articles about the war against human trafficking. One article explained how the FBI is trying to connect with community organizations to take part in this effort. Read it at [http://www.charlotte.com/mld/charlotte/news/breaking\\_news/13705052.htm](http://www.charlotte.com/mld/charlotte/news/breaking_news/13705052.htm). Other articles describe the problem in depth.
- A speaker from NC Dept. of Justice addressed this subject at an NCWU meeting. Slides are at <http://www.ncwu.org/2005/october/PolkSlides.pdf>
- We have often read it takes a village to raise a child. It is going to take the world to stop this problem, which goes far beyond sexual harassment.