



# American Association of University Women

ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

January 2007

## HOUSTON BRANCH

Houston Branch members enjoyed a wonderful time lunching and visiting with other area branch members at the Interbranch Luncheon at Sugar Creek Country Club on Saturday, January 20. Our speaker was Barbara Best, Texas Executive Director of the Children's Defense Fund and Chairperson of the Gulf Coast Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIPs).

AAUW is a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.



Janet Richardson has P.J. Missman and Lois Sutton engrossed!



Andrea Needham engaging in stimulating conversation.



Susan Lederer, Pat Ross, Robbie de Vries enjoying the luncheon.



Karen Morris, P.J., Janet and Pat with Linda Gilbert of Montgomery County.

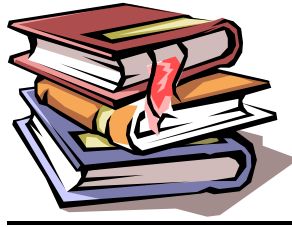
Come to the next  
**Houston Branch General Membership Meeting!**  
February 10, 2006 11 AM

**Lind Butler LPC LMFT**

**Cancer Counseling Inc.'s Therapist of the Year 2006**

Come learn about Cancer Counseling and this fabulous young therapist/artist in our community.

Location: Felix's Mexican Restaurant (private room)  
904 Westheimer, Houston, 77006 (713) 529-3949  
*Enjoy lunch with friends after the meeting at Felix's.*



# BOOKWORMS

*Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.  
Refreshments provided.  
Call Lois Sutton for location information (713) 862-8857  
Our remaining selections for 2006-07 are:*

January 24	<u>Founding Mothers</u> by Cokie Roberts.
February 28	<u>Night</u> by Eli Wiesel.
March 28	<u>Tears of the Giraffe</u> by Alexander McCall Smith.
April 25	<u>The God of Small Things</u> by Arundhati Roy.
May 23	<u>An Embarrassment of Mangoes</u> by Ann Vanderhoof.

Our next Bookworms gathering will be January 24, 2007, with Janet Richardson reviewing *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts. This book brings to light the stories of the women who fought the Revolution as valiantly as the men, sometimes even defending their very doorsteps from British occupation. While the men went off to war or to Congress, the women managed their husbands' businesses, ran the farms, and raised their children. These women who sacrificed for the fledgling nation spent months or even years apart from their husbands, at a time when letters were their only form of contact.

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."  
~ Dr. Seuss*

## Save These Dates

June 29-July 2	AAUW Association Convention, Phoenix, Arizona
July 10-15	International Peace Conference, Dallas
July 21-22	AAUW Leadership Conference, Austin



This is a wonderful opportunity to attend workshops on many vital issues, such as Education, State Income Tax, Religious Attack on Science, Women's Health and Family Planning, Family Violence and Violence Against Women and Stem Cell Research. All that on Monday, January 29.

The Keynote will be given by Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner, authors of **Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism and the Future.**

On Tuesday, January 30, Advocacy and Lobbying, and the Importance of Women's Vote in Texas will be discussed. Texas Women Elected Officials will also give presentations. In the afternoon there will be group lobbying at the Capitol. It promises to be an exciting event. I hope to see you all there.

Georgia Kidwell, Public Policy, Texas AAUW

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### About the Houston Branch

The Houston Branch was founded in 1937 and worked with the Red Cross during WWII. The branch eventually grew to over 400 members by the 1970's, providing educational scholarships to women and participating in significant and effective projects in the Houston community. Come to meetings, get involved and discover the interesting details on the many ways this organization has made a big impact on our local civic and cultural scene.



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## **AAUW Supports Female Coach in Montana Sex Discrimination Case**

*Coach was told “winning is not a priority” for the women’s team*

Washington – A former women’s basketball head coach at Montana State University is receiving new funding from the American Association of University Women Legal Advocacy Fund to help battle an ongoing problem of sex discrimination and inequality at the school.

Robin Potera-Haskins sued Montana State University-Bozeman on July 1, 2005 for sex discrimination and for retaliation for complaining about sex discrimination.

Throughout her employment, Potera-Haskins was given fewer privileges than the male coaches in the athletic department. She was paid 30 percent less than the male coaches and was not given benefits that male coaches routinely received, such as use of vehicles and cellular phones. She also contends she was given less autonomy over her team and was forced to use substandard practice facilities.

Potera-Haskins claims university officials told her that “winning is not a high priority for the women’s...team” and that she should “lower expectations.”

“AAUW is proud to support Robin in her case against an institution that puts men and women on unequal playing fields,” said Lisa Maatz, interim director of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. “Sex discrimination is alive and well on college campuses, and we need to hold universities accountable.”

The school’s athletic director pressured Potera-Haskins to place his daughter on the basketball team and provide her with an athletic scholarship, even though she lacked the skills and qualifications to play at the Division I level. When Potera-Haskins filed a complaint with the university, no action was taken. She was eventually terminated without cause and replaced by a less-qualified male coach.

Potera-Haskins and AAUW assert that the school violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Montana Human Rights Act, and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. AAUW has contributed \$5,000 to the case so far.

Potera-Haskins was hired as the head coach of the women’s basketball program at Montana State University in April 2001. She created a winning

program, leading the team to back-to-back conference championships and assisting the players in maintaining an average GPA of 3.0 or higher.

“Robin was a winning coach with a winning program, and her efforts – and that of her players – deserved more equitable treatment and respect from MSU,” Maatz said.

*The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, a program of the AAUW Educational Foundation, is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. It provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.*



**Women to Assume Caucus and Committee Leadership Roles**

Senate Democrats have already announced their caucus leadership for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, including Patty Murray (WA), secretary of the conference; Debbie Stabenow (MI), chair of the Steering and Outreach Committee; Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY), vice chair of committee out reach; Blanche L. Lincoln (AR), chair of rural outreach; and Barbara Boxer (CA), chief deputy whip. Two women will chair committees: Boxer will chair the Environment Public Works Committee, and Dianne Feinstein (CA) will chair the Rules Committee.

Senate Republicans also chose their leadership, elevating Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) to chair of the Policy Committee.

Women in the House have the seniority to take on some key leadership positions. Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) could become chair of House Rules Committee, which sets the rules for floor debate. Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA) will likely chair the House Administration Committee, which oversees federal elections and day-to-day operations in the chamber. Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) is in line to chair the Small Business Committee, particularly important because women are becoming entrepreneurs in disproportionate numbers.



**Pelosi Addressed 2005 AAUW National Convention**

House Democrat Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has assumed the role of speaker of the House for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Pelosi addressed the 2005 AAUW National Convention, telling convention delegates, “No organization has done more for a longer period of time than AAUW to open doors that had been barred shut, to smash through the glass ceilings and marble ceilings that still exist in far too many places.”

## *Making History: The First Woman Speaker of the House*



Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., waves to colleagues while being nominated as the next Speaker of the House on Thursday. It's a glass ceiling no one else has even cracked, and Nancy Pelosi crashed through it Thursday, elected the nation's first-ever female House speaker. "I accept this gavel in the spirit of partnership, not partisanship, and look forward to working with you on behalf of the American people," Pelosi said in a speech to colleagues and the nation. "In this House, we may belong to different parties, but we serve one country."



Along with her own grandchildren, Republicans brought at least 41 children and Democrats brought more than 75 little ones — children and grandchildren of the members — into the House chamber to witness Nancy Pelosi's ascent to speaker.

## An American Brat

By Bapsi Sidhwa

U.S. PREMIERE

Sunday, March 11 3:00 pm

Feroza is a young Pakistani girl sent to college in America by her liberal Parsi parents. But now she's fallen in love with an American – and he's Jewish! Suddenly Feroza's family is getting more than they bargained for, including a lesbian roommate and a domineering Jewish grandmother. The resulting clash is a humorous, touching, insightful look at the common threads of family life.

Stages Repertory Theatre  
3201 Allen Parkway  
(one block west of Waugh Dr.)  
Main entrance on Rosine St.  
parking on D'Amico

*Tickets \$20 Group Discount Price*

***U. S. Premiere ~ Our International Program  
for 2006-07***

**Reserve your seat by contacting Karen at  
713-861-6366 or [karen.mckibben@gmail.com](mailto:karen.mckibben@gmail.com)**

*Other branches will be joining our Houston branch for this exciting play!*



Next ***Wild Wacky Women of Wednesday*** evening out will be March 14.  
Contact P.J. at (713) 529-4619 or [psimms82@hotmail.com](mailto:psimms82@hotmail.com) for time and  
location. Don't miss it!

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### Houston Branch Officers

President, Int'l Affairs, Newsletter, Public Policy	~ Karen McKibben Morris
Membership	~ P.J. Missman, Judy Brownlie
Secretary	Open
Finance	~ Pat Donnelly, Pat Ross
Historian	~ Janet Richardson
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EF / LAF	~ Ingree Peterson; Pat Donnelly



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