

PRESS & GUIDE

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Dearborn AAUW passes gavel, lauds service

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Outgoing Dearborn AAUW President Carolyn Blackmore (left) welcomes her successor Anne Gautreau who will be at the helm of the local group for 2011-12. Offering team support at the Branch Installation Dinner May 24, are incoming Program Vice President Beverly Reiter and Administrative Vice President Francesca Payne. (Photos courtesy of AAUW)

DEARBORN — The annual Dearborn AAUW Installation dinner proved to be more than the passing of the torch as longtime members were recognized for their dedicated service.

After passing the gavel from 2009-10 President Carolyn Blackmore to incoming 2011-12 President Anne Gautreau, Dearborn AAUW celebrated members with more than 50 years service May 24 at O’Kelly Banquet Hall.

Honored for 60 years of AAUW support was Genevieve Vasiu, as well as 50-year honorary life members Pat Daoust, Marjorie Eckert, Eleanor LaRoy, Gwendolyn Logan and, posthumously, Susanne Rose-Kraynak, who died in February.

Gautreau cited the women’s “tireless work” to further AAUW goals to improve educational opportunities “one girl and one woman at a time.”

“In fact, we salute all of our members for their uninterrupted, unceasing and unfaltering support

of AAUW's 130-year legacy to advance equity for women through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy." said Gautreau.

Featured speaker Marilyn Zoidis, now a curator at The Henry Ford and previously senior curator for the Smithsonian's Star Spangled Banner Restoration Project, gave a colorful presentation on "The American Flag and the Civil War."

Zoidis, who currently heads the "Discovering the Civil War" exhibit, which can be seen through Sept. 5 at the Henry Ford, told the women the exhibit will "take a fresh look at the conflict through little-known stories, documents and perspectives."

Notable past-year achievements highlighted at the dinner included:

— The huge fall AAUW Used Book Sale, which raised close to \$10,000 in 2010 to support scholarships and programs for women nearby and globally. Primary local beneficiaries again were UM-Dearborn and HFCC.

Gautreau said, "Sept. 15-17, will mark our 60th Annual AAUW Used Book Sale at the Dearborn Ice Skating Center, DISC. Book Barrels are now out at DISC and throughout the community for public donations of used books in good condition." [Continued...](#)

Other significant achievements:

— Creation of the Marge Powell Leadership Award to recognize local high school students who "demonstrate outstanding leadership skills, service and integrity." Chosen to receive the annual \$250 awards and honored at the dinner were Allison Foret, Dearborn High; Jumana Abusalah, Edsel Ford; and Maya Meheidli, Fordson High.

— Increased support of local arts education programs, resulting in AAUW receiving both the Dearborn Mayor's Art Award and the Organization Award for "outstanding contributions to the advancement and support of the arts in the greater Dearborn community."

— Continued support for organizations that shelter women, the On-the-Move program at UM-Dearborn, and AAUW national Educational Foundation, Legal Advocacy, Leadership and Training Institute Funds.

Dearborn AAUW hosts several monthly study and interest groups for members including Adventures in Art, three book groups, two bridge and epicurean groups, an international relations study, movies that matter and quilting groups.

Women interested in exploring American Association of University Women membership are invited to call Kim Foo at 1-313-336-1988.