



AAUW NetWorks

Monthly newsletter of the Northern Monmouth County (NJ) Branch
American Association of University Women

Volume 53, Number 4

April 2009

Presidents' Message

We are confident that all of us are more than ready for spring as we eagerly look forward to the month of April. This will be a good month for AAUW as well.

April 1 starts off with TeenTech on the campus of the College of NJ. It will be a day of hands-on technology workshops for girls in grades 9-11 from throughout the state. **Barbara Williamson** will be participating and would be happy to have you come along with her. Give her a call for more information on this very worthwhile endeavor that was begun by AAUW-NJ in 1999.

Our April 6 branch meeting will once again be at the lovely Junior League house in Rumson. We are fortunate to have this convenient and spacious site for this program. Our speaker, Yasemin Benson-Cassino, is a Montclair State University professor who was a part of the recent AAUW-NJ Pay Equity Issues Conference that featured Lilly Ledbetter. She will be bringing us a new program with insights and information pertinent to us all. Please be sure to invite a guest. That night we also will be voting on a slate of new officers for 2009-2011 (see page 6).

April 18 is AAUW-NJ's annual meeting at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township. This is always a special day featuring good speakers; continental breakfast and lunch are provided. Download a registration form at www.aauwnj.org and join the group that will be going from our branch. We will make further plans for carpooling at our April branch meeting.

Congratulations to **Barbara Williamson** for her nomination as Membership Vice President for AAUW-NJ. She has served exception-

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Branch Meeting

"The Gender Pay Gap in Contemporary America" Dr. Yasemin Bensen-Cassino

Monday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.
Junior League Headquarters, 55 Center Street,
Rumson (yellow building next to Rumson
Police Station)

April is Women's Pay Equity Month, with April 28 the day to which a woman must work to earn the same amount her male counterpart earned by December 31, 2008.

Our program will feature Dr. Yasemin Bensen-Cassino of Montclair State University, who will provide an overview of the most recent research on the gender pay gap. She will explore the causes of and contributing factors to this gap, and compare the status of women's pay in America, particularly New Jersey, with that in other industrialized countries. Dr. Bensen-Cassino also will discuss the impact of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act on pay equity, particularly for senior women.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about a vital AAUW issue. Bring every woman you know! If you need a ride, please call Alice MacPhee or Marilyn Parker.

Board Meeting

Monday, March 30, 7 p.m. at Eatontown
Community Center, 58 Broad Street (Route 71)
All branch members are invited to attend.

BRANCH OFFICERS 2008-2009

Co-Presidents	Alice MacPhee Marilyn Parker
Program VP	Mary Anne Anderl
Communication VP	Marian Wattenbarger
Educational Foundation VPs	Jeannette Molzer Carol Quinby-Walther
Financial VP	Barbara Williamson
Membership VPs	Mary Lea Burden Laura Noll
Public Policy VP	Joan Spring
Study Group VP	Barbara Sickman
Recording Secretary	Irene Gibson Barbara Iwanski

NetWorks is published monthly except January, July, August, and September by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of the American Association of University Women.

Items for the April issue are due on March 31 to:
Nancy Butler, Editor

Send address changes, names of prospective members, membership applications and checks, and questions about non-receipt of the newsletter to:
Laura Noll

AAUW Online Bookstore:

Receive a 5% discount on your purchases and free shipping at Barnes and Noble. Go to www.bn.com/aauw.

Other member benefits:

Click on "membership benefits" at www.aauw.org

Study, Action, Interest Groups**Advanced Spanish Conversation**

Meets: First Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Contact: Alicia Portuondo
We get together for a social coffee and to listen to a speaker on a subject of interest to the group, or we watch a videotape about current events. Call for meeting details.

Art History (NEW!)

Meets: Please contact chair for details about March activities.
Contact: Mary Anne Anderl
We hear and discuss presentations by members on selected art history topics; we also plan museum trips. New members are welcome!

Drama

Meets: Wednesday, March 25, 1:00 p.m.
Topic: *Melissa Arctic* at Two River Theater
Meets: Wednesday, April 22, 9:30 a.m.
Topic: Discussion of *Melissa Arctic*
Contact: Marjorie Levy
New members are welcome to attend a meeting and/or join the group for a matinee or weekend performance. Call/e-mail for details.

French Conversation

Meets: 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.
Contact: Kate Wellauer
Members with a good knowledge of the French language converse in French on many different subjects. We all strive to improve our skills, meeting on a rotating basis for lunch at a member's home. We encourage more AAUW members to join us. Call/e-mail for meeting details.

French Intermediate

Meets: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9:30 to 12
Contact: Anne Morrison
Lively discussion of French customs, culture, current events. New members very welcome! Call/e-mail for meeting details.

German Conversation

Meets: Twice a month on Mondays,
9:30-12

Contact: Walli Rosen

To retain and improve German language skills, the group reads about/discusses current events and contemporary German literature. Call for meeting details. New members are welcome.

Insights

Meets: Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *The Audacity of Hope* by Barack Obama

Contact: Marilyn Parker

This group reads and discusses contemporary nonfiction to increase understanding and knowledge of current issues. New members welcome! Contact chair for location.

Italian Conversation

Meets: 2nd Tuesday, 1 to 3 p.m. at Estelle
Yaraschuk's

Contact: Jeannette Molzer
Irene Gibson

To improve knowledge of Italian language and make Italian travel easier, this group studies customs, culture, and people of modern-day Italy. We would love to welcome new members; please call/e-mail for information.

Literature

Meets: Thursday, March 19, 2:30 p.m.

Topic: *The Song Before It Is Sung*, Cartwright

Meets: Thursday, April 16, 2:30 p.m.

Topic: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Hosseini

Contact: Regina Sieben

We now meet in the daytime, usually on the third Thursday. A different member acts as a leader each month, and presents background and critical appraisal of that month's selection. We welcome new members who might find the change of time convenient. Please contact chair for meeting details.

Movies and More

Meets: Tuesday or Wednesday evening

Contact: Jeannette Molzer

Contact chair to be put on list for receiving

details, usually the week before. New members welcome!

Stock Study Group (NEW!)

Meets: Second Tuesday, 3 p.m. at Panera
Bread, Shrewsbury

Contact: Carol Q. Walther

The group enjoys "lunch and learn" meetings and welcomes new members. Contact chair for details of next meeting (see article below).

Membership

Good News! The dues for the 2009-2010 year will remain the same. There will be no price increase in either the national, state, or branch

Stock Study Group Update

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the constant state of emergency, crisis, and aftershocks we see and hear in the financial media, yet there is a strong undercurrent of fundamental financial systems in place.

We are interested in learning and discussing the connections between Wall Street and Washington, D.C., as well as those between Big Business and the Banking Industry. Please join us as we seek to further our "financial education" — something we missed along the way in our busy lives.

On April 25, 9:30-12:30, at Brookdale, you are invited to join us for a class on "Stock Market Boot Camp...Next Steps." Contact me for details.

Carol Walther
Stock Study Group Chair

dues. Thus the regular member dues will stay at \$69.00 a year.

Yearbook Update:

Please update Carol Quinby-Walther's name, e-mail address, and university information in your yearbook as follows:

Carol Q. Walther
Pratt Institute, BFA; NYU, MA

If you need a ride to a branch meeting or activity, please call one of us.

Mary Lea Burden
Laura Noll
Co-Membership VPs



Public Policy

Pay Discrimination Follows Women into Retirement:

A recent *Women's eNews* article highlights how past wage inequities suffered by Lilly Ledbetter, a national leader in the fight for pay equity and the namesake for the first bill President Obama signed into law, continue to follow her into retirement. The gender-biased pay discrimination that Ledbetter suffered while in the workforce translated to a smaller 401k retirement contribution, which limits what she now receives in her retirement. Ledbetter is not the only retired woman who suffers financial difficulties due to former wage inequalities; in fact, the poverty rate among elderly women is approximately an astonishing 75% higher than for elderly men, leaving older women much more vulnerable to poverty in their retirement.

Action: The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was a first step in the fight for pay equity, but it is only a down payment for the necessary provisions to equal pay that are provided for in the Paycheck Fairness Act (S.182/H.R.12). If you haven't yet

done so, join the fight for pay equity by taking a few minutes to urge your senators to cosponsor and swiftly pass the Paycheck Fairness Act in order to ensure unbiased pay for future generations of hardworking Americans. Visit AAUW's new Paycheck Fairness Act page online to learn more about the bill.

Job Discrimination Cases Have Tough Go in Court:

Employees who bring discrimination claims against their employers lose their cases at a higher rate and receive less time in federal court than other types of plaintiffs, according to a study published in *Harvard Law and Policy Review* in February. Federal plaintiffs won a mere 15% of job discrimination cases from 1979-2006; in all other criminal cases, the win rate for plaintiffs was 51%. In addition, the number of job discrimination claims filed in federal court fell by 40% from 1999-2007.

This follows a report issued last year by the Federal Judicial Center which found that 12.5% of employment-discrimination cases were terminated at the summary judgment phase, before any trial could take place. By contrast, the percentages were much lower for other types of civil suits.

According to one plaintiffs' attorney quoted in a *Wall Street Journal* article about these troubling trends, "We will no longer take individual employment-discrimination cases, because there's such a high likelihood of losing." The article cites the case of Vicky Crawford, a Tennessee woman who was fired from her job for cooperating with an internal sexual harassment investigation against a fellow employee. That case also reached the Supreme Court, and AAUW signed an amicus brief supporting Crawford's position. In a unanimous vote, the Supreme Court ruled that workers cannot be fired or otherwise retaliated against for cooperating with internal sexual harassment investigations that arise under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. For more information, see the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund page.

AAUW Members Receive Praise via Twitter:

Rep. Joe Sestak (D-PA), using his Twitter account on February 3, informed the Twitter world that he met with AAUW members

in Pennsylvania and received "tremendous insight." AAUW values the participation and activism of its branches and members as crucial in moving AAUW's agenda forward. You can also keep up with what is happening at AAUW by following us on Twitter. Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: "What are you doing?" Go to twitter.com/AAUW.

April Branch Meeting: Be sure to attend our April 6 branch meeting, which will focus on the gender pay gap, particularly in New Jersey. We are fortunate to have Yasemin Besen-Cassino as our speaker. Those of you who attended the AAUW-NJ Conference on Pay Equity will recall that she was the moderator and one of the excellent speakers there.

Joan Spring
Public Policy VP

Presidents' Message *(cont. from p.1)*

ally as Educational Foundation Chair.

We send a big thank you to **Marian Wattenbarger** and **Wendy Murphy**, who have been effective in publicizing our AAUW activities, as well as to **Heather Balczarek** for her professional and diligent updating of our Web site.

Please read the information below on a new offer by CJ Montana's, and plan once again to enjoy a meal that will also benefit EF. This time we can select a dining time from within a four-day dining period starting April 30, but we must have an invitation with us in order to have 10% of our food purchases rebated to the EF fund. We will be distributing invitations as soon as possible, so stay tuned! More information will follow at the April branch meeting.

We hope to see you all then.

Alice MacPhee
Marilyn Parker
Co-Presidents

Second "Dining Out With Friends" Event

We invite our members, families, and friends to dine together at
C.J. Montana's Pub & Grille
560 Shrewsbury Ave (corner of Apple Street), Tinton Falls

Lunch and Dinner from 11:30 a.m. till 11 p.m.
April 30 and May 1, 2, and 3

Our guests with Invitations will dine on their own at their pleasure during the four-day period. CJ Montana's will generously tabulate the invitations of AAUW guests and rebate 10% of the food check back to our branch to benefit our scholarship fund.

CJ Montana's Pub & Grille is a favorite of our members – the menu is wonderful and the ambiance charming (not to mention the homemade desserts...).

Invitations are available from board members, study group leaders, and at the AAUW Book Sale on Saturdays at Old First Church in Middletown.

Information: Carol Walther

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents for election at the Branch Annual Meeting on April 6 the following slate of officers for 2009-2011:

Co-Presidents:
Doris Hudak and Barbara Iwanski

Program Vice President:
Mary Anne Anderl

Public Policy Vice President:
Joan Spring

Communications Vice Presidents:
Margaret Barney and Elaine Lent

Financial Vice President:
Barbara Williamson

In addition, the following people are willing to work in cooperation with other officers:
Marilyn Parker with Nancy Butler on *Net Works*,
Pat Miller with Jeannette Molzer on Educational Foundation books, and Linda Beltran on scholarships.

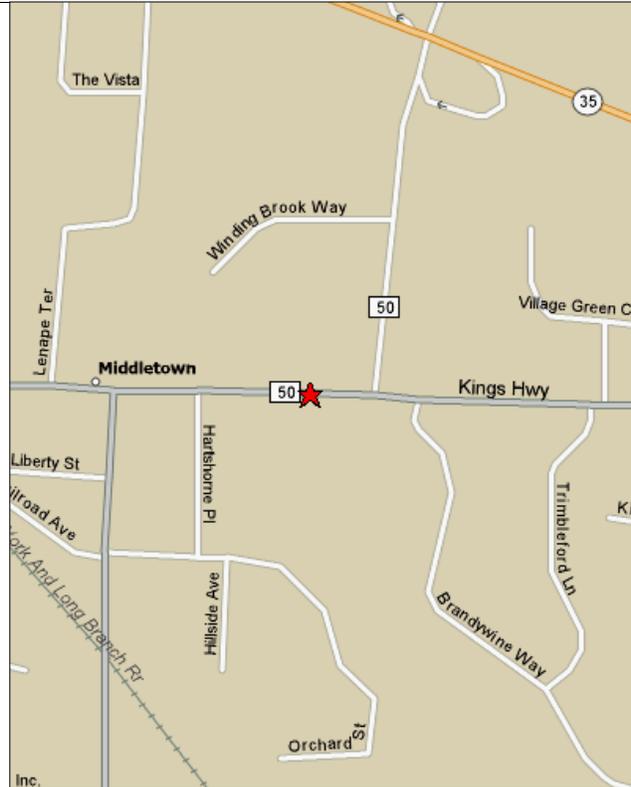
Thank you to Nominating Committee members Mary Anne Anderl, Jeannette Molzer, Joan Spring, Elaine Lent, Laura Noll, Barbara Williamson, and Linda Beltran (alternate).

Carol Walther, Chair

NetWorking

Our member **Debby Slavitt** is a photographer, fiber artist, writer, teacher, art therapist, maker of books, and traveling artist. In January she traveled by ferry among the Grenadines, seeking out local artists and craftspeople. Debby's art work will be exhibited locally during March:

- Fiber Arts: Monmouth Festival of the Arts, Monmouth Reform Temple, Hance Avenue,



Book Sale Location

Old First Church, 69 Kings Hwy., Middletown
Open Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tinton Falls; March 28 to April 1; Artists Reception March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

- Photography: "Country Fair Route through the Midwest," Long Branch Library, 328 Broadway

You can see lots of Debby's beautiful work at her Web site: www.artistto.net.

LAF Update/Express

LAF Update is a newsletter that provides details on cases adopted by the Legal Advocacy Fund. *LAF Express* is an e-bulletin that provides the latest information on activities and programming resources of the Fund. Both are available online at www.aauw.org/publications.

Looking Ahead

AAUW-NJ TeenTech*

Wednesday, April 1
The College of NJ, Ewing
Hands-on technology workshops for teen girls grades 9-11

AAUW-NJ Annual Meeting*

Saturday, April 18

Forsgate Country Club, Monroe Twp.
Speaker: Sally Chamberlain, EF program
VP and candidate for Association president
* Register online at www.aauwnj.org

AAUW National Convention “Breaking Through Barriers”

Friday-Sunday, June 26-28
St. Louis, Missouri
More info online at www.aauw.org

Scholarship News

Last June, our branch’s Frances Dunbar Fund sponsored the attendance of two Brookdale students at the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, DC. One of them was Ayse Sazmazel, president of the student organization Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology. Ayse had planned to share her impressions of the conference with us, but was unable to attend our meeting due to illness. We would like to pass on the personal information and the remarks that she sent to us in lieu of an appearance. Here is Ayse, in her own words:

I am 47 years old, and this is my second college experience. I got my B.A. in English Literature in 1984 in Turkey. I worked for a major bank in Turkey, starting as a project manager, and was director of personal banking at the time of my resignation. I got my EMT certification in the U.S. 11 years ago, and since then I have been an active member of the volunteer Holmdel First Aid Squad. I have a daughter who is a freshman at Pace University. I am working on my prerequisites at Brookdale to be able to apply to a graduate program in physician assistant studies.

The decision to attend the Leadership Conference was not an easy one for me. I had just come back from Turkey and started taking summer classes. I also had to

take care of my mother, who has a terminal disease, and my daughter, who was getting ready to go to college. On the other hand, I knew it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and also was very happy that AAUW had chosen to sponsor me.

The moment I arrived at the Conference site, I knew I had made the right decision. At the conference, in addition to being exposed to issues that have tremendous influence on our lives as women and in our communities, I met women from all walks of life. In spite of our age, ethnic, or background differences, we had a common goal, which was/is to go out there, have a voice, and make a difference.

At the Conference, I witnessed women who were trying to encourage young girls to go to science, engineering, and math-oriented fields; women who did not give up on working social justice issues just to put bread on the table; and women who were sharing their experiences, time, and knowledge with their communities. In those three short days, we became a community of different orientations, working toward a common goal: to have a voice, to be heard, and to make a difference.

Once again, I want to say that it was an amazing experience and I want to thank AAUW for sponsoring me.

Ayse is an impressive student, and we wish her the best in her continuing studies.

Mary Anne Anderl



AAUW NetWorks
Northern Monmouth County Branch
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

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April 6 Branch Meeting: "The Gender Pay Gap in Contemporary America"

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. 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.

Membership is open to any graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

Value Promise: "By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

AAUW Book Sale



The store is located at :
Old First Church
69 Kings Highway
Middletown

Open: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays
Donations: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thursdays
To volunteer: Anne Morrison
Information: Viki Mischenko, Chair
732-933-4855

All profits go to local scholarships for women and to the AAUW Educational Foundation for fellowships for women.

Stay Connected

AAUW www.aauw.org
AAUW-NJ www.aauwnj.org
AAUW-NMCB www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org
Branch phone 732-933-4855

Join the AAUW Action Network:
At www.aauw.org, click on "Quick Links" and drop down to "Join the Action Network." Non-members can participate too.

Meeting cancellation information:
Listen to 94.3 FM.