



AAUW

AAUW NetWorks

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

Volume 53, Number 4

March 2009

Presidents' Message

Our membership event in early January was a great success, and we thank **Laura Noll** and **Mary Lea Burden** for their efforts to keep our branch vibrant with additional talented and enthusiastic women. Thanks also to our meeting coordinators, **Susan Gelber** and **Harriet Moore**, who provided such a lovely table of tea sandwiches and cakes. We welcome our new members and encourage any prospective members who are reading this to join us. We look forward to your future participation and hope that AAUW will have a positive impact on your life.

As many of you know, we had a large representation at AAUW-NJ's Pay Equity Conference at Brookdale, where the keynote speaker was Lilly Ledbetter. How timely it was that the conference came just days after the Senate passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (S. 181) by a 61-36 vote. Find more information on page 5.

Not only is March Women's History Month, but also March 8 is International Women's Day. Its purpose is to connect all women around the world and inspire them to achieve their full potential. IWD is now an official holiday in over a dozen countries such as Russia, Armenia, Ukraine, and Vietnam. The tradition sees men honoring their mothers, wives, girlfriends, and colleagues with flowers and small gifts. In some countries IWD has the equivalent status of Mother's Day, when children give small presents to their mothers and grandmothers. This is the global day to recognize the collective power of women, past, present, and future. This day should also remind us that millions of women across the globe are still denied basic human rights, such as access to healthcare, education,

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Interbranch Meeting

"The Life of Albert Einstein" Guild Theatre Works

Wednesday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Worthington Assisted Living
458 Jack Martin Blvd., Brick
(off Route 70, across from Ocean Medical
Center Hospital)

The Interbranch meeting is our yearly opportunity to get together with our sister branches, Freehold Area and Northern Ocean County, and this year Northern Ocean County is hosting the meeting.

The program will be a dramatic presentation of Einstein's life by the Guild Theatre Works, a community service organization based in Brick, whose mission is to encourage cooperation among artists producing theatrical events. Don't miss this chance to get acquainted and network with AAUW members beyond our branch.

All are welcome—bring a friend! If you need a ride, please call Alice MacPhee or Marilyn Parker.

Board Meeting

Monday, February 23, 7 p.m. at Alice
MacPhee's, Tinton Falls

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 February 24 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**

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: Tuesday, Feb. 17 or Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., at Nancy Cruikshank's, Shadow Lake
Members should choose one of the two evenings for their visit to Nancy's quilt collection, and notify chair of choice.
Topic: The Quilt: An American Art Form
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
Topic: *Melissa Arctic* at Two River Theater
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.

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Susan Gelber for generously supporting the New Member Coffee by providing refreshments.

Support AAUW

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

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, March 10, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *A Place Called Canterbury* by Dudley Clendinen

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 in Middletown

Contact: Jeannette Molzer or
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*, by Justin Cartwright

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

Contact: Jeannette Molzer

We are meeting in the afternoon during January, February, and March. Contact chair to be put on list for receiving details, usually the week before. New members welcome!

Stock Study Group (NEW!)

Meets: Tuesday afternoon at Panera Bread

Contact: Carol Quinby-Walther

The group enjoys "lunch and learn" meetings and welcomes new members. Contact chair for details of next meeting.

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

Dues Special for Prospective Members:

If you have been thinking about joining AAUW, now is the time! If you pay your full 2009-2010 dues by March 15, you will get an extra three months' membership. This means that your membership will run until June 30, 2010. Don't put off joining another minute. Your name will be put in the membership drawing to be held at the June meeting; if you win the free membership, you will have your dues refunded.

Welcome to our Branch!

Please welcome the following **new members** to our branch and add their contact information to your yearbook. Florence Diller is a former branch member and we welcome her back!

Florence Diller

Red Bank

City College NY, BA; Johns Hopkins, MAT;

Long Island University, MS

Interests: reading, theater, mah jongg, movies, baseball, and history

Marie Gambuzza

Tinton Falls

Jill Gordon

Tinton Falls

Brooklyn College, BA; Catholic University

School of Law, JD

Judith Long

Red Bank
New York University, BS
Interests: bridge, knitting, travel, anything Italian

Yearbook Corrections:

Please update the following email addresses in your yearbook:

- Mary Ellen Banfield
- Ann Wasserman

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

Mary Lea Burden
Laura Noll
Co-Membership VPs

In Memoriam

Honorary Life Member Carla Wilkinson passed away on January 8, 2009. She was a member of AAUW for more than 62 years. A graduate of New York University and Columbia Teacher's College, Carla taught school for many years. She was a frequent volunteer at the Used Book Sale, was active in the German and French study groups, and served on various committees within the branch. She will be greatly missed by her friends in AAUW, Shadow Lake Village, and the League of Women Voters.

Public Policy**“Keep the Change Until Women Have Real Change”**

According to new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 the ratio of women's and men's median annual earnings reached almost 78 cents on the dollar for full-time, year-round workers, up from just under 77 cents in 2006. This is the narrowest the wage gap has ever been, but it's only an additional one cent on the dollar. *One cent isn't real change; it's chump*

change. So AAUW's new initiative “Keep the Change Until Women Have Real Change” urges Congress to pass legislation that will give women effective equal pay protections.

Thanks to the hard work of AAUW Action Network members and our coalition partners, the House passed both the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and the Senate passed the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, in the first actions of the 111th Congress. AAUW members and supporters have worked tirelessly for years to bring these bills to passage, and recently many Action Network subscribers sent multiple messages to their Senators and Representatives in favor of this legislation. AAUW's Capitol Hill Lobby Corps was also instrumental in this advocacy campaign, visiting many congressional offices to represent the support of AAUW members across the nation. These bills provide a critical opportunity for Congress to make real progress on pay equity. President Obama made the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act the first bill he signed into law. Both of NJ's Senators, Lautenberg and Menendez, voted for the Ledbetter Act. Representatives Rush Holt, Frank Pallone, Jr., and Christopher Smith voted for both Acts.

Passing both bills in tandem was critical to the overall goal of achieving pay equity for women. The Ledbetter Fair Pay Act rights the wrongs done by the Supreme Court, regaining ground we've lost and ensuring that people who've been discriminated against can seek vindication. The Paycheck Fairness Act is a comprehensive bill that creates stronger incentives for employers to follow the law, as well as strengthens penalties for violations; strengthens federal outreach, education, and enforcement efforts; and prohibits retaliation against workers who ask about employers' wage practices. Together the bills will help create a climate in which pay discrimination is not tolerated and give the new administration enforcement tools it needs to make real progress on pay equity.



AAUW-NJ Pay Equity Conference

The Achieving Pay Equity Conference, held at Brookdale on January 24, couldn't have been more timely in its topic and content. Lilly Ledbetter herself was a compelling keynote speaker, telling her story of learning late that she had been paid much less than male co-workers at Goodyear Tire and Rubber for nearly 20 years, and her subsequent efforts to rectify this inequity through the courts. The substantial settlement she was initially awarded was overturned in the Supreme Court's 2007 decision that tossed aside long-standing prior law and made it much harder for women and other workers to pursue pay discrimination claims, stating that a charge must be filed within 180 days of the employer's **initial** decision to pay an employee less. Although knowing that she wouldn't benefit financially from subsequent legislation to restore the prior law, Ledbetter devoted many years to the litigation and the ensuing attempts to pass the legislation. It was inspiring to listen to such a courageous woman.

An overview of the pay gap issue was presented by Dr. Yasemin Besen-Cassino of Montclair State and Dr. Mary Gatta of Rutgers. Lindsey Pollack conducted an interactive session on negotiating, which experts consider a critical component in achieving pay equity. More than 100 people attended the conference, including at least 12 members of our branch.

Joan Spring
Public Policy VP

Presidents' Message (cont. from p.1)

and ways to better their families' lives.

With the League of Women Voters, our branch will co-sponsor a program on the 2010 Census on Thursday, February 26, from 7-9 p.m. at the Monmouth County Library, Shrewsbury. There will be a speaker from the US Census Bureau. Come to hear why this census may be the most important count in our nation's history.

Remember to join us on Wednesday, March 18, for Interbranch, the annual meeting

of our branch along with the Northern Ocean County and Freehold Area Branches. This year Northern Ocean will host, and the play "The Life of Albert Einstein" will be presented by the Guild Theatre Works. If you would like to car-pool to Brick, please call one of us and we will try to coordinate riders and drivers. See you then!

Alice MacPhee
Marilyn Parker
Co-Presidents

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents for election at the Branch Annual Meeting in May 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 EF 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) for their successful efforts!

Carol Walther, Chair



AAUW NetWorks
Northern Monmouth County Branch
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

AAUW

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March 18 Interbranch Meeting: "The Life of Albert Einstein," Guild Theatre Works

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 or

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.
