“The Future is Now” was the focus of the AAUW-NJ Annual Meeting, held on April 12, 2008 in East Windsor, New Jersey. High attendance, expectant enthusiasm, and guest speakers who were right on target with today’s complicated issues provided the backdrop of an interesting and informative day.

AAUW’s Executive Director, Linda Hallman, has been in office less than four months. Linda delivered a powerful vision of the direction of AAUW. She addressed two topics for us; “The Future is Now” and the Pay Gap issue.

In her present position, Ms. Hallman oversees the Association, the AAUW Education Foundation, and the AAUW Leadership and Training Institutes. Our state was indeed privileged to host Linda at the annual conference. The AAUW-NJ Board members enjoyed her insights when she attending the board meeting the night before the annual meeting. She appeared to be a very hands-on person, mixing so very well with everyone, yet intrinsically knowing when to offer advice and when to listen.

In keeping with her main theme, “The Future is Now”, Linda suggested that there is a complex web of political issues about economic trouble that affects women and students such as housing, gas, financial down-turns, and recession. Women feel the pain of these troubles far more disproportionately than male counterparts. When times are tough, they are always tougher for women, thereby creating women equity as a running thread in political issues. Linda suggested that no one organization can solely lead a charge; that many coalitions in Washington D.C. must work together to stimulate successful change.

The newly articulated value promise is that by joining the AAUW community, which breaks through economic barriers, all women have a fair chance. AAUW fights for equity because a fair chance is worth it! It is not only right…it is our right!

Continued on page 2
Linda cited staggering statistics gathered from *Behind the Pay Gap*, the new research released in April 2007, by the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation, which shows that just one year out of college, women working full time already earn 80 percent less than their male colleagues, even when they work in the same field. Ten years after graduation, the pay gap widens to a discouraging 69 percent. Within the study, it was widely asserted that educational achievement will not close the pay gap. Ms. Hallman stated that critical to a turn-around in the pay gap is the necessity for women to improve their negotiating skills. Virginia Lyttle, our state president, mentioned that the topic of improving women’s negotiating skills is planned for an upcoming AAUW-New Jersey Conference. Ms. Hallman stated that there was much work to do in AAUW. The pay equity is a clear, strong example. Although closing the gap remains elusive, she believes that we are the members of the community who can break down the pay gap.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund assists individuals challenging sex discrimination in higher education. Currently, it focuses solely on campus discrimination. Linda’s plan, to broaden and to strengthen the LAF to the work force involving other fields, met with great enthusiasm from AAUW members. She focused on major issues that National AAUW is facing within the association. The National AAUW Board’s goal is to reconnect with AAUW members. We are members of a community who represent the same ideals on the branch, state, and national levels. However, many members join a branch, and the national and state scope eludes them. She admitted that there is a definite disconnect between branch, state, regions, and national headquarters. We must be ambitious in implementing principles of the entire association, and become unified in AAUW causes. As an example, she mentioned a New Zealand AAUW member’s keen desire to visit the AAUW Headquarters in Washington, DC, whereas most American members have never contemplated the trip. [Editor’s Note: The resounding chorus within our state ranks seemed to be singing, “Let’s Go, Onward to Washington, DC...as quickly as possible!”]

Other major issues discussed:
- To get leadership better trained and more aware of the programs that are available.
- To implement what the Board decides, and to make as smooth a transition as possible.
- To rebuild coalition work, to rebuild partnerships, and to maintain more corporate outreach. To connect missions with branch activities so that AAUW goes full circle.

As previously stated, AAUW remains a powerful advocate in equity, but Linda again highlighted that the playing field is not level. She reiterates that AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. These efforts will help increase America’s competitiveness by reducing gender barriers that deter women from pursuing academic and career goals in STEM fields. With regards to STEM, she exclaimed, “We must Reach Out, Recruit, and Retain!”

As a final thought, Linda asked, “What is AAUW all about?”, and she reminded us that, simply put: We empower women and girls. As AAUW members we speak with a huge, thundering voice, and we focus on a PEARL:
- Protecting legal rights
- Educating
- Advocating
- Research
- Leading and Teaching

Ms. Linda Hallman shares thoughts with AAUW-NJ Members at the Annual Meeting
Members who attended the AAUW-NJ Annual Meeting, held on April 12, 2008, were pleased to welcome Carolyn Donovan, representative of our interests and those of women and girls worldwide at the United Nations. Focusing on her theme, *Putting More YOU in the UN*, Carolyn discussed various UN programs, and she suggested ways to increase our involvement in promoting programs for women and girls.

Ms. Donovan was appointed by the AAUW president in 2000 to serve as AAUW’s UN representative. The UN representative advocates and networks in support of AAUW’s policy and program issues to foreign government officials, UN agencies, and other NGO representatives at UN headquarters in New York. She attends selected UN and nongovernmental organization committee meetings and briefings in New York at least once a week to monitor issues about women and girls. She then brings information to AAUW leaders and members, advocating AAUW’s support of the UN agenda in areas affecting women and girls, and stronger U.S. support for the United Nations.

Carolyn engaged our interest by explaining the various ramifications of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Also known as the Women’s Rights Treaty, CEDAW is the most comprehensive agreement addressing international women’s rights. The treaty, endorsed by AAUW since 1981, can be an effective tool in reducing violence and discrimination against women and girls. Although the U.S. played a defining role in drafting the convention and signed the treaty in 1980, it remains the only industrialized country to fail to ratify it. 185 countries have ratified this Treaty while the U.S. fails to lend its important weight to the Treaty and to its profound principles. As an advocate for AAUW’s missions, Ms. Donovan stated that AAUW members collectively and individually need to work to support ratification of CEDAW by contacting their United State Senators to press for support of the Convention.

Ms. Donovan also highlighted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is an international convention setting out the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children. Again, all member nation states (countries) of the United Nations have ratified it with the exception of the United States.

The third area of UN interest outlined by Carolyn was the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). It is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Carolyn stated that global changes predominately affect women and the poor.

Major goals of the commission are:
- To overcome poverty by 2015
- To ensure universal primary education
- To negate violence against women

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

*Article 1 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
Thirty years ago last November, Women from the opposite sides of such incendiary issues as abortion and gay rights met in Houston for the National Women’s Conference. It was the first meeting of its kind since Seneca Falls, N.Y. They put forth the shocking proposition that all people, women included, were created equal. Such items as child care, an end to job discrimination and the Equal Rights Amendment were issues of the day. The conference wrestled with the issues in the open with all voices heard.

Many women believe the Houston conference marked the beginning of a powerful push in women’s political leadership that sees us vastly better off than we were 30 years ago. We have come a long way but we still have a way to go. **Our Pay Gap issue is just one of the problems women still face.** We are still making 79 cents on each dollar that men make for the same job and experience level. The month of April has marked AAUW’s push for the elimination of the Pay Gap. AAUW is also fighting to pass the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which corrects the Supreme Court’s decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company*. The decision by the Supreme Court turned 40 years of legal precedent and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) practice upside down.

The United State has still not passed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). As of November 2, 2006, the convention was ratified or acceded by 185 countries. President Jimmy Carter submitted the Convention to the Senate in 1980. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings on the Convention in 1988, 1990, 1994, 2002 and 2007. Only 2 countries have not ratified. We are one of the two.

This is why we need the collective voices of AAUW and why AAUW needs us. On another note, AAUW-NJ believes in the power of committed volunteers. Our vital, forward-looking organization needs dynamic, flexible, committed leaders with creative ideas. In other words, we need people like you to run for state office. Two state positions need to be filled – program and a second southern district co-coordinator. Leadership is developed through experience. If you are hesitant to run for election, please consider an appointed position on a state committee.

Is your branch promoting its AAUW affiliation when you have guests present? Remember the key to membership recruitment and retention is the focus on our AAUW issues and visibility. Otherwise we are just another women’s group.
In the fall of 2005, Linda Haigh Tozier assumed the responsibilities of the Middle Atlantic Region (MAR) Director. At that time, she discovered that all states and branches have one common need—the need to figure out who they are, what they want to do as a group, how they want to achieve these goals, and who they want to join them in their quest. During her tenure as MAR Director, she has helped each of us to discover the answers to this need.

Ms. Tozier stated that she will be conducting an **MAR Leadership Training** on Saturday, June 21, 2008, in Timonium, MD. The Conference Registration Form, on page 11, must be postmarked before June 10, 2008.

In the afternoon of the AAUW-NJ Annual Meeting, after delightful remarks about her insights and involvement with AAUW, Linda installed the State Officers for 2008-2010.
Top NJ Branches’ Contributions to the Educational Foundation Fund
Ms. Barbara Williamson, Educational Foundation Fund Chair

The AAUW Educational Foundation has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. EF is the world’s largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women. EF supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented. Our NJ branches give both local and national EF monies for scholarships and grants.

Congratulations to the following branches that were the top contributors in our state:

**Somerset Hills Branch — $28,550.00**
**Summit Branch — $7,497.00**
**Northern Monmouth Branch—$3,570.00**
**Madison Branch—$3,565.00**

AAUW-NJ Membership Awards
Ms. Joanne Messina, AAUW-NJ Membership Vice President

Annual awards were presented at the Spring meeting on April 12, 2008. The branches with the largest percentage increase in membership and the highest number of additional members were awarded with a certificate for this year. Please remember to send in dues in time to have our National team properly record your members. The "Member get a Member" program continues. In order to qualify, the name and membership number of the individual recruiting the new member must be provided. The following branches were presented an award:

**Somerset Hills Branch**
**Mountain Lakes Branch**
**Northern Ocean Branch**
**Gloucester Area Branch**
**Livingston Branch**

Pictured left to right:
Ann Hartman (Somerset Hills Branch)
Barbara Ann Joralemon (Summit Branch)
Margaret Greenlee (Summit Branch)
Marilyn Parker (Northern Monmouth Branch)
Barbara Williamson (EF Chair)

Pictured left to right:
Joanne Messina (Membership Vice President)
Karen Brown (Somerset Hills Branch)
Sylvia Campbell (Mountain Lakes Branch)
Marie Hagemann (Northern Ocean Branch)
Not present: Gloucester Area and Livingston Branches
Annual Women as Agents of Change Awards  
Ms. Jean Wadsworth, Committee of Women Chair

At the Annual Meeting held in East Windsor, New Jersey on April 12th, four distinguished ladies were awarded the AAUW-NJ Annual Women as Agents of Change Award for 2008. The following women were recognized for their significant accomplishments:

**Ann Marie Gigante, MFT, LPC** is licensed in NJ as a professional counselor. She is also the Director of Transitional and Kinship Services, Care Plus NJ, Inc. Care Plus NJ, Inc is a multifaceted healthcare organization that provides community based services for those adversely affected by psychiatric illness, emotional problems, and addictions. As a Director in the Children’s Services at Care Plus, NJ, Inc., Ann provides leadership for many programs. Her activities as Program Director for one of these programs, STRIVE for Success, warranted the recognition for her work with 18 to 21 year olds who “age out” of the youth system and need education, life skills and support to transition to self-sufficiency as adults.

**Beverly M. Riddick** is the Executive Director of HOMEcorp (Homes of Montclair Ecumenical Corp). She is responsible for development and implementation of affordable housing programs and initiatives, addressing HOMEcorp’s mission: to provide safe, decent, affordable homes in Montclair and promote neighborhood development. Ms. Riddick is also personally involved in the HC Julius W. Foster Fund, which provides scholarships to Montclair’s Glenfield Middle School students who demonstrate need and successfully complete their “Read Your Way” academic and community service requirements throughout the year. Partnered with this program, HOMEcorp is able to involve the students in community service, encourage literacy skills, and reward students with trips to cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC for both fun and educational activities.

**Leigh Lindjord Wohlfarth** was honored for her volunteer work. The award was given to her in recognition of her leadership training for girls and her service to women and families. At Family Services of Morris County, she acted as a “phone friend”, talking with latch-key children. Leigh spent five years with the Junior League, promoting volunteerism for women and training women to be effective volunteers. As Program Director for the Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Wohlfarth was responsible for the planning and implementation of all Chamber programs and events. She served as Executive Director of Leadership Morris, a community education program. For the United Way, she served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee as Action Team Chair of Building Strong Foundations for Children and Families.

**Gloria Pierce** was recognized for her dedication in raising awareness of women’s health issues. Gloria saw the need for an awareness and early detection campaign directed at women, and she was instrumental in getting support for Joanna’s Law: The Gynecologic Cancer Education & Awareness Act signed by the President in 2007. Getting this bill passed was a major achievement as it provides $6.5 million toward the 2008 efforts to launch a national campaign to educate women and health professionals about the signs and symptoms of gynecologic cancers. A prolific speaker, Gloria addresses such issues as cancer, tobacco, heart health, violence against women and children, and universal equality and education.
The following is from “Historical Principles—1881-2007”, published for the 125th anniversary of AAUW. This statement focuses on AAUW’s beliefs about global interdependence.

AAUW believes that peace in an interdependent world requires education; national and international policies that promote justice and human rights; social, political, and economic development; and security for all people.

AAUW advocates arms control and the restriction to peaceful purposes of the explorations and use of outer space.

Understanding that issues such as food, energy, natural resources, and population are interrelated, AAUW advocates international cooperation in ensuring social, economical, and physical well-being through promotion of a clean and healthful environment, education and services to control population, and appropriate development and use of the world’s resources.

AAUW supports the United Nations and other international and regional organizations and alliances working toward international understanding, peace, human rights, and comprehensive resource planning. AAUW advocates citizen participation in the formulation of foreign policy.

To support the global interdependence statement, AAUW is:

*An international partner for the 2008 Global Summit of Women to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam from June 4-7, 2008. The conference will examine what women can do to access the Asia-Pacific markets. What we can learn from the women business leaders from the region will form the frame of this global gathering. Contact: www.globewomen.org.

*A partner in One Shared World, a campaign to raise awareness of global poverty and to generate dialogue about what we, as Americans, can do to help tackle it. The campaign especially seeks to connect America’s women to the many public and private efforts that help people in developing countries overcome poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and disease. Contact: www.onesharedworld.org.

*Supporting the passage of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It was submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1980, 1988, 1990, 1994, and 2002. The current administration has stated that it does not support the Senate action on the treaty at this time. Contact your senator asking that this treaty be released from the Foreign Relations Committee and posted for a vote for approval.

*Offering a travel opportunity to Tahiti and French Polynesia from February 1-10, 2009. Contact: www.AAUW.org.

*Those members interested in participating in the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) may become a part of that organization by joining Women Graduate-USA (WG-USA). The membership of WG-USA is drawn from the ranks of AAUW. The first Annual General Meeting will be held in Des Moines, IA in October, 2008.

For membership information, contact: www.wg-usa.org.
New Jersey 100 Club September 2006 – December 2007

The New Jersey 100 CLUB is in recognition of the 100 or more hours of work for AAUW on the branch or state level and/or $100 donated to the Legal Advocacy Fund, the Educational Foundation or the New Jersey Charitable Trust.

Mary Arena  Doris Hudak  Dorothy Rodgers
Jean Atherton  Beryl Hunter  Arlene Roncin
Bettine Avenia  Arlene Ingls  Marcia Saltzman
Sylva Boback  Trudy Iwanski  Regina Sieben
Karen Brown  Alison Lenox  Sally Singer
Mary Lea Burden  Adrienne Lesser  Barbara Skerry
Nancy Butler  Edith Levy  Constance Smythe
Sylvia Campbell  Virginia Lyttle  Doris Sozek
Deana Campion  Kathleen Magill  Linda Stark
Carol Cohen  Clare May  Doris Stewart
Peg Collins  Bess Michaels  Rose Stuart
Pamela Coratti  Victoria Mischenko  Angela Stuehler
Barbara Crawford  Jeannette Molzer  Leila Sulkes
Emma-Lou Czarnecki  Carole Monesmith  Juliet Sutherland
Paula Duls  Anne Morrison  Gail Swain
Lauren Durenberger  Shirley Mutchler  Adelaide Swanson-Bonner
Ellen Fenster-Kuehl  Merise Nelson  Vivian Tedrow
Maizie Frenk  Penny North  Lin Tollefsen
Susan Gelber  Joan Odud  Linda Haigh Tozier
Michelle Gerke  Teri Passarello  Jean Wadsworth
Sally Goodson  Nancy Perlman  Marjory Walters
Bonnie Gould  Joanne Pisapia  Lucy Webb
Darlene Griggs  Kathleen Pizar  Phyllis Weber
Pat Heller  Tamara Quinn  Marianna West
Geri Helou  Ann Raynor  Marti Weinstein
Carol Holmelund  Edith Rights  Dee Wenzelburger
Barbara Williamson

Branch Raffle Baskets Benefit EF and LAF

At each AAUW-NJ Annual Meeting, wonderful baskets are donated by New Jersey branches to be raffled off. Each branch designs a decorative basket with a creative theme. The proceeds of the raffle are divided equally between the AAUW Educational Foundation and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

$943.00 was raised this year from the proceeds of the Branch Raffle Baskets at the Annual Meeting on April 12, 2008.

Thank you, ladies!!
Prepare for the Presidential Election
Ms. Adrienne Lesser, AAUW-NJ Public Policy Director

The 2008 Presidential election is fast approaching. We all know this is a critical election – perhaps the most critical of our lifetime. Vital matters that will affect us, our children and grandchildren are at stake. In addition to foreign policy issues, issues such as educational equity, retirement security, a fair and balanced judiciary, civil rights, workplace fairness, reproductive rights, healthcare reform, climate change, and equal pay to name just a few, will be decided when we go to the ballot box in November.

We want to encourage enlightened citizenry to become involved, to become aware, and to vote.

With that goal in mind, AAUW/NJ and the New Jersey League of Women voters will be conducting a series of voter registration drives on college campuses. By reaching out to young people and giving them the information they need to register and participate in this election, we will be empowering a new generation to become involved in the political process.

We need your help. We are asking for volunteers to assist in organizing and working on this key project. The NJ deadline for registering to vote in the General Election is October 14, 2008; we, therefore, anticipate that these drives will take place in August, September, and October. You can volunteer for a few hours or as much time as you can spare. By joining with the League, we hope to double our impact.

AAUW members pride themselves on their actions and rightly so. We know it is difficult to commit without specific dates, locations and times, but please contact us if you are interested. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warning! Voting May Be Habit-Forming

- Voting is a habit. People who vote have a pattern of voting and are members of social networks of voters. Their friends, coworkers, family members, and neighbors also vote regularly.
- On the flip side, people who do not have the habit of voting may be members of a network that does not include many regular voters.
- AAUW branches can increase the numbers of regular voters by bringing nonvoters into their network. This can be done woman to woman.
Activist on behalf of African Americans and women, Mary Church Terrell was a charter member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and helped integrate the American Association of University Women. In 1898, Mary Church Terrell wrote how African-American women "with ambition and aspiration are handicapped on account of their sex, but they are everywhere baffled and mocked on account of their race." She fought for equality through social and educational reform.
THE GARDEN STATEMENT is a publication for the members of the American Association of University Women-NJ.

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. 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.

Change of address should be sent through your branch, if possible; the branch will forward the information to AAUW Record Office. Please include the address label, which includes your Member Number.

Correspondence and editorial contributions should be directed to Carole Monesmith, Editor: cmonesmith@gmail.com

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