Travel is serendipitous. In October, I had the opportunity to visit a friend in Minnesota on my way to a Women Graduates-USA meeting in Iowa. While in Minnesota we visited Pipe Stone National Monument. It is here that Native American’s, from multiple tribes, dug and still dig a red soap stone used to make peace pipes and small carvings. What makes the place special is that war was and is not allowed on the grounds. My New Years wish for all of us is that the world would be like Pipe Stone area. That war would not be allowed.

From Minnesota it was on to Perry, Iowa, for the Graduate Women-USA’s 1st Annual meeting. At the meeting it was announced that the International Federation of University Women had accepted GW-USA as a national affiliate. (This is the group that was started by AAUW women when AAUW was no longer an affiliate of IFUW). The group has also achieved 501C3 status, so dues are tax deductible. Anyone with a college degree can join IFUW thru WG-USA for $50.00. Check out their web site www.WGUSA.org. It is very informative. Or send $50 to Barbara Carey 1308 Gamma Street, Carlsbad, NM 88220-4630. The first 1000 people will be charter members.

While in Perry, a friend and I went to Des Moines late in the afternoon just because it was near. While walking around the beautiful state capitol building we noticed limos dropping people off and well dressed people and people dressed in native attire walking into the building. It turned out to be the night of the presentation of the World Food prize. Former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and George McGovern were the recipients this year. The senators crossed party lines to create a program to alleviate hunger and promote education among some of the world’s poorest children. The McGovern-Dole International Food for education and Child nutrition Program created in 2000 has provided food to 22 million children in 41 countries, boosting school attendance by 14 percent – 17 percent for girls.

“The majority of the hungry children are girls, because of the favoritism to boys, and when girls are hungry they stay home from school, and when they stay home from school they marry as early as age 10.” McGovern said.
“By the time they are 20, they’ve had six children.” McGovern then said, “but when they stay in school they have on average just three children…. You feed people and the population comes under control.”

The World Food Prize recognizes the two retired senators for their longtime work in Washington for various food-related programs, such as hunger assistance and famine relief and the school lunch program in the United States.

The award ceremony was the culmination of World Food Prize week. The prize honors Iowa native Norman Borlaug, the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner, for his work in launching the green revolution that reversed the growth of worldwide famine in Third World countries. I don’t remember hearing about the World Food Prize in New Jersey.

Speaking of local, I am looking forward to another conference and hearing Greg Mortensen of “Three Cups of Tea” fame at the United Nations at the end of the January. He is the keynote speaker at CTAUN, the Committee on Teaching about the U.N. It is a great program that anyone can attend. It will be interesting to hear how his schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan have done and how many girls are now enrolled.

I’ll tell you about it in the next letter.

One final word; I have a niece who works for at the Devon Fine Jewelry store in Wyckoff. They specialize in gems from around the world. Debbie and her boss went to Madagascar to purchase gems. While there they visited the Institute of Gemology of Madagascar. Founded in 2003 by an American gem dealer with the help of the World Bank, it is the only institute of its kind in Africa and the Indian Ocean region. By learning to cut gems, a $10 handful of rocks can become a $100 handful of gems with the local people making the money. The ladies were so impressed by the high quality gemology, lapidary, and jewelry-making programs, that Devon Fine Jewelry has created a scholarship fund to supports girls and disabled people to attend the Institute. The average income in the region is less than $300 a year. The cost for a nine-week course is around $500.

To date, there have been several hundred lapidary graduates from the institute. Many of these cutters have become teachers around the country and the region. This might be an easy international connection for New Jersey or for a branch. All contributions are tax deductible. Check out www.devonjewelry.com or www.devonfinejewelry@aol.com.

We know these are difficult times, how much more difficult is it for a woman being discriminated against, being harassed while trying to keep her job or being limited in her field? Now we need to support each other. LAF is joining other women’s groups and is concentrating on landmark cases, such as L. Ledbetter, in order to get the most "bang for the buck" in supporting equality for women.

In 2007, NJ/LAF raised $8841.90.

In 2008, NJ/LAF raised $7742.57.

Can we make up that $1099.33 difference in 2009? Can we again raise $8841.90, or even $9000 in 2009?

Remember your branch raffle baskets at the April 18th Annual Meeting aid EF and LAF.

Please send all contributions to Dr. Ruth A. Nielsen/ 46 Ridge Road/ Morristown, NJ 07960
Will 2009 be the year of AAUW’s transformation? If so, each of us needs to be reminded that policies and procedures by themselves don’t change an organization. Rather, it is YOU, the members, who have the opportunity to move AAUW from a 20th- to a 21st-century organization. Since transformation depends on the human factor, how does this happen?

First, we have to work together and think together as an entire community to ensure that we keep our AAUW Value Promise at all times. When planning branch activities or even personal activities, ask “How does this project or program or activity help keep AAUW’s Value Promise?” In other words, how am I helping to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls? Diligence in keeping AAUW’s promise will make an enormous difference both in getting results for our mission and in branding our organization.

Whenever you read with your granddaughter, play in a bridge tournament that benefits the AAUW Educational Foundation, host a guest speaker on pay equity at a branch meeting, or write your member of Congress through our Two-Minute Activist portal, you’re taking a step to break through barriers. Just asking yourself that question brings a new awareness to and appreciation of our work that is vital to making it succeed—and will help you focus as your branch plans its mission-based programming.

Second, plan to attend the 2009 AAUW National Convention: Breaking through Barriers, June 26–28, in St. Louis. There you’ll have the chance to experience the new AAUW firsthand, to see with your own eyes what the future holds for our organization. You’ll make AAUW history by participating in the bylaws votes, and, of course, you’ll reconnect with old friends and make valuable and enjoyable new connections.

But, please, come to convention well versed in the proposed bylaws and rationales; the briefings provide extensive information on these new approaches.

Third, adopt innovative tools and future-oriented thinking about what will make AAUW viable, attractive, and competitive. Yes, organizations compete for the attention and participation of current and potential members. If we are unable or unwilling to see the big picture of AAUW and its needs in 2009 and beyond, we risk the future of the entire organization. So to finalize the corporate restructuring from three separate entities to one tax-exempt umbrella organization (501(c)(3) with a very small 501(c)(4) subsidiary, the Action Fund), we will need to adopt bylaws that support the respective legalities and functions. We also need new ways of operating that recognize updated ways to lead, technology that facilitates administrative work so volunteers can devote themselves to breaking through barriers, 21st-century ways of engaging with each other, and other practices.

A number of these innovative tools have been introduced through the series of briefings that AAUW has provided since early fall 2008. These tools include the Programs in a Box, which provide how-to’s for mission-based programming; the Membership Pilot Program, which will allow leaders to manage their membership records online; and the Branch and State Local Scholarship Clearinghouse Pilot Program, which will help branches market their scholarships and select their recipients from a pool of prescreened applicants. Our new method of submitting a...
leadership position application will allow members to express general and specific areas for service, along with an inventory of skill sets they can bring to these positions. The type of work expected of the regional director is so valuable that we are revamping and strengthening that role to ensure grassroots engagement for the new AAUW.

At the AAUW state spring meetings, board members and other leaders—champions—will present and facilitate discussion on all these transitions. Be sure to take advantage of this personalized learning opportunity, especially in preparation for the convention in St. Louis.

Each of these changes marks a departure from our business as usual, yet they are all designed to address our organizational shortcomings. It is up to us to take hold of what organizational development teaches us, leave behind AAUW practices and thinking that don’t work, and build on AAUW’s unmatched legacy to reshape its potential for the future. We need to be smart, as well as educated!

The critical question is, How will you help AAUW move into the 21st century? As noted, the forward-looking framework and policies/procedures are being developed for your consideration and decision. How you think about AAUW, its future and its promise, will determine both how you receive proposed changes and, more important, what you do with the new AAUW once it is in place. You—both individually and collectively as the AAUW community—are the agent on which AAUW’s success rests!

The new AAUW is going to be a force to be reckoned with. With a community of nearly 100,000 determined women and men, focused on a single objective—to break through barriers for women and girls—we will be unstoppable.

---

Greetings for 2009 from Linda Tozier, MAR Director!

All eyes are focused on our June 26-28th National Convention in St. Louis. The Theme is “Breaking through Barriers.” I encourage each of you to attend what will be the most significant AAUW Convention in our lifetime. AAUW is merging into one powerful organization that will blast through barriers. You don’t want to miss this opportunity to be part of real change.

The cost of convention registration has two remaining timed tiers. Until March 22nd, registration will cost $399. Any member registering after March 22nd will pay $440. For a limited time, American Airlines is offering a 5% discount on airfare to St. Louis. Please check the AAUW website for complete details.

The next time you visit the AAUW website, please review the latest briefings from Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director. It is the intent of the AAUW briefings to be a pathway forward for how AAUW is moving and why. Also look at the Member Showcase. All branches and states can post activities. It would be wonderful to see listings from New Jersey. States and branches also are encouraged to be part of the AAUW Taste of Success at the 2009 National Convention. This event provides the opportunity to showcase projects that have been successful in helping to break through barriers. Applications can be downloaded from the convention website and must be submitted by February 23rd.

Members of the AAUW and EF Boards will be attending each state spring meeting to discuss the proposed bylaws changes. The AAUW-NJ Champion, Sally Chamberlain, will be with you on April 18th. The final version of the proposed bylaws changes has been posted on the website and is printed in the spring issue of Outlook.
On April 18, 2009, AAUW-NJ’s Annual Meeting will be held at the Forsgate Country Club, 375 Forsgate Drive, Monroe Township. Registration will begin at 8:30; the meeting will begin at 9:00. A continental breakfast and a buffet lunch are included with your $25.00 registration fee. The registration form is located on page 19.

Ms. Sally Chamberlain from Pennsylvania, currently a member of the National AAUW Board, will be our guest speaker. She is also a presidential candidate for the 2009-2011 National AAUW Board.

She plans to discuss the following topics:
- The direction of AAUW
- The restructuring of AAUW
- The proposed National AAUW bylaw changes that will be voted on at the convention
- Convention issues

AAUW-NJ’s Committee on Women Chair, Ms. Jean Wadsworth, will honor the 2009 recipients of the Women as Agents of Change Award. Three outstanding women will be introduced who have made a difference in the lives of women. These women have shown leadership in a significant community effort related to women’s issues. This year marks the twenty-second year of celebrating such women.

Decorative baskets with a creative theme, donated by AAUW-NJ branches, will be auctioned. The proceeds of the raffle will be divided equally between the AAUW Educational Foundation and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

Seventy members attended AAUW-NJ’s Fall Focus, which was held on October 11, 2008 at the Forsgate Country Club. Attendees participated in break-out sessions to learn how branches can better amplify AAUW’s Mission Statement, attract new members, and revitalize existing members. In addition, Gloria Pierce was recognized for her dedication in raising awareness of women’s health issues. She saw the need for 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.

Pictured left to right: Susan Mennella, Gloria Pierce, and Committee on Women Chair, Jean Wadsworth

Women as Agents of Change Award recipient Ms. Gloria Pierce

AAUW-NJ President Virginia Lyttle (r.) listens as International Affairs Chair, Arlene Inglis discusses issues
One Dream, One Voice

It matters not your Party’s name
That we will never be the same.
In ’63, we heard and cried
A dream deferred but not denied.

A sacred oath he swears this day
The 44th President to lead the way.
The times are but a raging storm
Historic proportions above the norm.

“Unite”, says he, with one clear voice
With hope and change, we have a choice
To build our land to vast new heights,
And blend our visions of equal rights.

The past complete, press forth renewed
This land which is so vastly viewed
A beacon of hope, a chalice of grace
Especially so, from a darkened face.

Carole G. Monesmith

Barack Obama with his mother,
Ann, during his childhood in
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Barack Obama playing base-
ball circa the Sixties

A young Barack Obama
plays in the Hawaiian
surf.

Barack Obama pictured with his
father, Barack Obama Sr., in
the early 1970s.

High school senior Obama takes a
shot during a basketball game with
his team from the Punahou School in
1979.

Obama receives a visit from his
grandparents, Stanley and Made-
lyn Dunham, in New York, where
he was attending Columbia
University in 1982.
A New Chapter in American History!

If one does not think that the United States represents the land of utmost opportunity, now every one must think again, because at twelve noon on January 20th, 2009, everything changed. History was made when the first African-American, forty-seven year old man was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America. How thrilling it was to witness a new chapter in that American History!
Bush and President-elect Barack Obama, stood inside the White House chatting before walking out of the North Portico to a waiting presidential limousine that took them to the Capitol building.

President Bush greets President-elect Barack Obama on the North Portico of the White House, January 20, 2009.

Barack Obama sworn in as the 44th American President as his wife, Michelle, proudly looks on.

President Obama renewed his call for a massive plan to stimulate economic growth during his Inaugural Address.

Parade celebrates the Barack Obama inauguration

The First Couple dances the night away

The world’s newspapers marked Barack Obama’s election win. Now, world governments want him to act.

Former President George W. Bush and Laura Bush board a Marine helicopter at the Capitol in Washington after Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States, Jan. 20, 2009.

Former President George W. Bush and his wife Laura Bush wave as they depart Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush wave to the crowd during a “Welcome Home” rally, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, in Midland, Texas.

President Obama retook his oath of office Wednesday after Chief Justice John Roberts flubbed while delivering it at Tuesday’s inauguration.

The 44th American President, Barack Hussein Obama II
President Obama signed his first bill Thursday, January 29, 2009, a gender pay equity law that had been a hallmark of his campaign for the White House.

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act makes it easier for workers to sue companies for pay discrimination and effectively reverses a 2007 Supreme Court decision that had given workers 180 days to file a lawsuit after they discovered the alleged discrimination.

Before putting his pen to the paper, Obama said:

"Lilly Ledbetter did not set out to be a trailblazer or a household name. She was just a good hard worker who did her job — and she did it well — for nearly two decades before discovering that for years, she was paid less than her male colleagues for doing the very same work," the president said Thursday. "Over the course of her career, she lost more than $200,000 in salary, and even more in pension and Social Security benefits — losses that she still feels today.

"Now, Lilly could have accepted her lot and moved on. She could have decided that it wasn't worth the hassle and the harassment that would inevitably come with speaking up for what she deserved. But instead, she decided that there was a principle at stake, something worth fighting for. So she set out on a journey that would take more than 10 years, take her all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, and lead to this day and this bill which will help others get the justice she was denied. ..."

"I intend to send a clear message: That making our economy work means making sure it works for everyone. That there are no second class citizens in our workplaces, and that it's not just unfair and illegal -- it's bad for business -- to pay someone less because of their gender, or their age, race, ethnicity, religion or disability."

Ledbetter, who worked at a Goodyear tire and rubber plant in Alabama, said she didn't know about the discrimination until the latter part of her 19-year career. She attended the bill signing in the East Room of the White House and was guest of honor at a reception hosted by the president and first lady Michelle Obama.

Obama signed the bill surrounded by members of Congress who co-sponsored the bill, including Republican Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine.

Before the signing, the Democratic members of Congress led rounds of applause by the crowd of 150.

As presidents have done before him, Obama slowly signed his name using different pens that he then handed to the various members of Congress. "We can always get more pens," Obama told the more than a dozen colleagues.

He also joked, "I've been practicing signing my name very slowly." Obama took up the last pen and said, "this one's for Lilly."

Obama mentioned the Ledbetter case frequently on the campaign trail, and she made a TV spot for Obama during the campaign. Ledbetter also spoke at the Democratic National Convention. The law extends the 180-day deadline every time a discriminatory paycheck is issued.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the first woman speaker in the history of Congress, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, were present. Lawmakers had made an earlier attempt to update the job discrimination law to extend the time limit, but the Bush White House and Senate Republicans blocked the legislation in the last session of Congress. The president and first lady hosted a reception for Ms. Ledbetter.

Michelle Obama, in her first public remarks as first lady, called Ledbetter one of her favorite people and was honored to campaign for her cause. Ledbetter said she fell in love with the Obamas during the campaign. She said, "I will never see a cent from my case," but now that the bill has been signed, "I have an even greater reward."
January 6, 2009

Dear Representative:

My name is Lilly Ledbetter. The New Year is always a time for optimism, and with the election of a new president and a new Congress, I’m feeling more hopeful than ever about positive change for women in our country. We’ve come a long way, but we still have a lot of work to do. So today I write to you in support of two pieces of legislation – one of which bears my name. Together, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act will help move us towards a commonsense goal: equal pay for equal work.

Nobody wants to be the poster child for unequal pay for equal work, but that’s what happened to me. Thirty years ago, Goodyear hired me to work as supervisor in their tire plant in Gadsden, AL. I sometimes wondered how my pay compared to my colleagues, but there was no way to know for sure because pay levels were kept strictly confidential. Thanks to an anonymous tip I received shortly before my retirement, I finally got some hard evidence of real pay discrimination. I filed a complaint without delay, and at the trial, the jury found that Goodyear had discriminated against me in violation of Title VII. The jury awarded me more than $3 million in back pay and punitive damages.

Unfortunately, that good moment didn’t last long. First, because of damages caps in Title VII, the trial judge was forced to reduce that award to $300,000 -- a mere ten percent of what the jury had awarded me and hardly more than a slap on the wrist to a company the size of Goodyear. Then, in 2007, my case reached the U.S. Supreme Court. In a disappointing 5-4 ruling, the justices took away the entire award, including the back pay. The Court said I should have complained every time I got a smaller raise than the men, even if I didn’t know what the men were getting paid and even if I had no way to prove the decision was discriminatory. In other words, the Court said if you don’t figure things out right away, a company can treat you like a second-class citizen for the rest of your career.

I won’t lie to you; I was pretty devastated by that decision. But instead of taking it quietly, I’ve decided to fight back, and the two bills I mentioned would do just that. The first is the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which would address my Supreme Court decision by simply making sure that people can challenge discriminatory paychecks as long as they continue to receive them: after all, that’s what Congress intended all along when it passed the Civil Rights Act back in 1964. This bill would protect workers like me and give employers the incentive to fix pay problems voluntarily.

The second bill is the Paycheck Fairness Act, which is a critical update to the 45-year-old Equal Pay Act. This bill would take real steps to empower women to negotiate for equal pay, create stronger incentives for employers to follow the law, and strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts. By putting firm protections in place now, this bill will help improve the climate for today’s working women as well as girls who haven’t yet entered the workforce.

Passing both of these important bills together is crucial. One bill fixes a past mistake, and the other helps ensure that such a mistake won’t happen again. Passing the two bills in tandem sends a doubly strong signal that pay equity is a top priority for the new Congress and will give better enforcement tools to the administration, too.

I may have lost my personal battle, but I haven’t given up. I’m still fighting for all the other women and girls out there who deserve equal pay and equal treatment under the law. Please, I urge you to join the cause and support these two critical bills. We owe it to our daughters, our granddaughters, and ourselves.

Sincerely,

Lilly Ledbetter

Plaintiff

Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
AAUW-MO and the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) in St. Louis are hard at work planning the details of hosting the 2009 AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, June 26-28, 2009. This historic convention, themed “BREAKING through BARRIERS,” will discuss and vote on issues related to membership requirements, dues payments, public policy issues, and much more. The results will have a momentous impact on whom and what AAUW is to be in the coming years. You don’t want to miss it! Check out the AAUW website for full details on the issues, the convention, and things to do in St. Louis: www.aauw.org/convention.

Convention registration began on December 1st and you DON’T want to miss out on Best Value Registration!* Hundreds of AAUW members are making plans to head for St. Louis next June to shape the future of our organization. The hotel has ample convention space, lovely rooms, and great restaurants and, is right in the heart of downtown St. Louis. The Cardinals will be playing ball, the Zoo is free, and the Art Museum is world class, as is the Missouri Botanical Garden. Theater, opera and a great children’s museum also await you.

At the convention we’ll have welcoming activities on Thursday, stimulating workshops on Friday morning, First Timers’ briefings, lively business sessions each day, dynamic keynote speakers, an exciting CEO Women Leaders luncheon, bylaws briefings, Meet the Candidates reception, elections for new officers, Taste of Success displays, the elegant banquet on Saturday night, and a final business session on Sunday morning. All this surrounded by the popular Cyber-Stop, AAUW merchandise sales, our friendly AAUW Missouri hospitality and much more. We want YOU to have a GREAT time at the convention!

Please join us in St. Louis! Plan now to send branch members and delegates to convention by budgeting for it, appointing delegates early, discussing the issues and bylaws. Treat yourself to a mini-vacation at the historic Renaissance Grand Hotel where spa treatments, great restaurants, and lots of extras await you. Don’t forget to invite your AAUW family and friends from across the county to “meet you in St. Louis” as we continue to ‘break through barriers’ for women and girls.

Celebrate the Power of Women on March 5, 2009!

Take part in this exclusive International Women’s Day event featuring the acclaimed documentary film, A Powerful Noise, followed by a live town hall discussion with humanitarian experts and celebrity activists broadcast to 450 movie theaters across the United States.

Through AAUW’s and CARE’s partnership, AAUW encourages you to join CARE (www.care.org) and more than 120,000 people gathering in 400 theaters across the United States to celebrate International Women’s Day 2009. On the evening of March 5, CARE is hosting an unprecedented one-night event featuring the theatrical premiere of "A Powerful Noise," an acclaimed documentary that follows three extraordinary women — Hanh is an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam, Nada is a survivor of the Bosnian war, and Jacqueline educates girls in Mali. The film takes you inside the lives of these women to witness their daily challenges and significant victories over poverty and oppression.

Immediately following the film, theatergoers will participate in a town hall meeting broadcast live from New York. It will feature renowned activists and experts, including Nicholas Kristof and Christy Turlington Burns, who will discuss how we can help empower women around the world.

AAUW members across the country can plan to attend the event, and your branch can make A POWERFUL NOISE Live your own official International Women’s Day program for 2009. Simply visit http://www.apowerfulnoise.org/guides.html to download a step-by-step planning guide for how local women’s groups can participate in this exciting event. Discussion guides about the issues addressed in the film will be available at www.apowerfulnoise.org soon.

To learn more about the film, or for theatre and ticket information, visit www.apowerfulnoise.org.
We were indeed fortunate to have Lilly Ledbetter, the woman who inspired the Ledbetter Fair Pay act, as keynote speaker at the third annual issues conference on Jan 24th, 2009.

The bill, which won Senate approval two days before our conference, had been approved by the House earlier in January. President Obama signed the bill into law at a White House ceremony on January 29th, 2009.

Lilly sued the Goodyear Tire and Rubber plant in Alabama where she worked for 20 years after learning that men in her position received higher pay checks. Despite clear pay discrimination, the case was appealed up to the Supreme Court in 2007 where in a 5-4 decision, the Court ruled she waited too long to press her claim. The new bill reverses the Supreme Court decision and lays the groundwork for increased worker protection. Although Lilly will never receive any of the back pay she deserves, she continued her fight to ensure that what happened to her doesn’t happen again. Lilly is a national treasure and her story of courage and tenacity inspired all of us.

Additional speakers at the conference included Drs. Yasemin Besen-Cassino and Mary Gatta who gave an overview of the data on the pay gap including explanations, examples and policy responses. Another highlight of the conference was a workshop on negotiating procedures presented by Leslie Pollack an author and lecturer. When women don’t know how to negotiate, they may fall behind early in their careers and never catch up. Many at the conference expressed the view that they wished they had had some of the tools she demonstrated earlier in their careers.

The conference was co-sponsored by Brookdale Community College, Business and Professional Women/NJ, with support from the AAUW/NJ Charitable Trust.

AAUW has started a new initiative entitled “Keep the Change Until Women Have Real Change.” According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 the ratio of women’s to 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 is chump change. It isn’t real change.

We are delighted that President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act as the first major piece of legislation in the new administration; however, AAUW and our allies are determined to see additional legislations enacted. Women have been hard at work to earn their extra penny, and we are well aware that this law only gets us back where we were before the Supreme Court decision eighteen months ago. This victory is a gratifying down payment towards real progress on pay equity. We will persist in the fight against wage discrimination by urging swift action on the Paycheck Fairness Act which will close additional loopholes in the Equal Pay Act.

AAUW will continue to work on critical economic and workforce issues with the Obama administration and the new Congress and is particularly pleased with the nomination of Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA) to be Secretary of Labor. Solis has a long record of fighting for pay for America’s workers.
Northern Ocean County Branch 40th Anniversary Celebration

Memories, music and a magnificent cake were the highlights of the October 4th 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Northern Ocean County Branch. The event took place at a luncheon held at the Wharfside in Point Pleasant Beach. Charter member Carol Adamo attended. Pamela Coratti, Cathy Paredes, Maria Sendzik and Barbara Tuzio gave short presentations of the events, accomplishments, and programs for each decade. Photo albums and scrapbooks were on display for all to see and reminisce. Joanna Lajewski sang a medley of songs written by or made popular by women entertainers over the past 40 years. The afternoon concluded with Marie Hagemann cutting a large carrot cake decorated with turquoise roses.

Madison Branch

Our Branch held three successful voter registration drives at three local colleges (Drew University, Fairleigh Dickinson University & County College of Morris) last spring by registering over 200 college students for the important Presidential election last November. We have also been successful increasing turnout and new members by "theming" our programs--this year's is "International Focus." We are now involved in preparing commemorative booklets, calling for a town proclamation, a library showcase, and a special, festive annual dinner to celebrate our Branch's 80th Anniversary!

Greater Wayne Area Branch

The AAUW Greater Wayne Area Branch has had a number of interesting programs this year, which have attracted a wide audience and new prospective members.

In October 2008, the branch hosted a program on Alice Paul, who was a champion of women's rights throughout most of the 20th century. The program was entitled, "Alice Paul: New Jersey’s Crusader for Equality". Our speaker, Valerie Buickerood is Administrative Director of the Alice Paul Institute, Mount Laurel NJ. Branch members learned that Alice was a New Jersey native who was one of the leading figures supporting the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. In 1913 Alice and others were instrumental in forming an organization which evolved into the National Women’s Party, and her leadership was key to its success. Alice and the NWP worked towards a federal constitutional amendment for women’s suffrage. After the victory of the passage of the 19th Amendment, Alice worked for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. This program was offered through the Horizon Speakers’ Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

In November 2008, the branch focused on women in government, through an interesting program entitled, "Garters and Government – A Look at Women in Politics and the Fashions they Wore". Costume historian Carole Greene and women’s historian Lindsey Greene presented historical vignettes of women in politics, intertwined with examples of the fashions they might have worn. The program was a unique blend of fashion from various eras together with a discussion of women’s history from that period. Carole added her costume expertise with samples from her vintage clothing collection to this fascinating presentation.
AAUW-NJ Branch News

Greater Wayne Area Branch

In January 2009, the branch focused on bullying prevention, with a presentation by branch member and school psychologist, Dr. Caroline Mossip. Caroline spoke about AAUW's groundbreaking publication “Hostile Hallways” and built upon AAUW New Jersey’s program in January 2008 on “Bullying and Harassment”. She discussed the negative effects of bullying, both upon the perpetrator and the target. The current issue of cyber bullying was presented as being of pressing concern, as the bully can hide behind technology and the bullying can continue 24/7. Caroline stressed the need for comprehensive programs to prevent bullying, in which the total climate of the school is addressed, and all school staff, administrators, teachers, parents and students work together to promote an atmosphere in which learning is facilitated.

Northern Monmouth County Branch

The Northern Monmouth County Branch (NMCB) celebrated its 80th year of learning and service during 2008 with several notable accomplishments. These include the following:

A History Book:

Last spring NMCB introduced a recently revised version of an earlier branch publication, The Battle of Monmouth: A Young Woman Goes to War. The booklet tells the story of the Battle of Monmouth and relates events leading up to the Battle as seen through the eyes of the fictional main character, Abigail. Although the main character in The Battle of Monmouth: A Young Woman Goes to War is fictional, she highlights the role women and girls played in the nation’s early history. Portions of her story are based on actual women in American history. The booklet provides detailed historical information and allows readers to truly place themselves in the Revolutionary War period.

Written by AAUW members with support from the Monmouth County Historical Association and the Monmouth Battlefield Historian, The Battle of Monmouth... is currently being used by the Freehold Township Schools. Project Chair, Wendy Murphy, noted that the new publication is suitable for use with students from elementary to high school and that a teacher’s manual is available for educators at no ad-

A Special Woman and the Arts:

The leading author of The Battle of Monmouth..., Dr. Mary Anne Anderl, was recently honored as the 2008 NMCB Member of the Year. In addition to her work on the booklet, Mary Anne provided two very successful December NMCB programs focused on the arts, in 2007 on the Bayeux Tapestry and in 2008 on the Cave art of Lascaux. These presentations permitted the branch to mark the holiday season with a special program for which admission was charged. The result was events with community appeal, large attendance and successful fundraising. Mary Anne also leads the Art History Study Group and serves on the branch board.

A Successful Collaboration:

NMCB is participating for the third year in Running and Winning, a program designed to encourage young women who are high school juniors to consider participating in politics when they are adults. Running and Winning was initiated by the local League of Women Voters three years ago. The first year, NMCB agreed to be a sponsor and provided several facilitators for the daylong program. This year the project is co-chaired by an NMCB member and two other members serve on the Steering Committee. The young women participants have an opportunity to meet women in government and work on a public policy question, this year it will be immigration. NMCB has been pleased to participate in this program, which models successful collaboration with other women’s organizations for the young women who attend and raises their awareness of how public policy affects daily lives. The sponsors in addition to AAUW NMCB, are The League of Women Voters-Greater Red Bank Area, The Junior League of Monmouth County, Red Bank Chapter of Hadassah, and the Monmouth Regional Chapter of the Women’s Political Caucus of NJ. We expect great things of the young women who participate in Running and Winning. For more information about this project, other branches can contact Marian Wattenbarger at mcwattbarger@comcast.net.

Nutley Branch

Attracting AAUW-NJ Student Members

Since 1987, Phyllis Walsh has been involved in the medical field one-way or another. She became a volunteer EMT while working in a doctor’s office doing medical billing and coding. She worked her way up to billing companies and hospital while continuing her career as an EMT. An opportunity to become the Assistant Secretary at her ambulance organization...
AAUW-NJ Branch News

Northern Ocean County Branch

On December 13, 2008 the Northern Ocean County Branch once again held the “Stand Up, Speak Out, Feel Good!” workshop on how to handle bullies and bullying situations. NOCB partnered for the fifth time with the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore (Monmouth and Ocean Counties) to present this workshop to eighty-six 5th and 6th grade girl scouts. Our workshop fits right in with the Girl Scout’s “No Way RA” program to help stop relational aggression (girl on girl bullying).

Throughout the day the girls listened to two professional speakers and broke out into groups to role-play and put into action what they learned. The two speakers, Tom Letson, a licensed Professional Counselor and a NJ Certified Substance Awareness Coordinator and Alcohol and Drug counselor from Freehold and Gail Poverman-Kave, a licensed Clinical Social Worker for the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania who has her own private practice in Manasquan, were very energetic and dynamic speakers. The girls really responded to them enthusiastically. Upon completion of the program the Girl Scouts earned an AAUW “Stop the Bullying” patch.

A portion of the funding for this program was made possible through a grant from the American Association of University Women-New Jersey Charitable Trust. Pamela Coratti, Community Project Chair and the Program Vice President for NOCB, would like to thank Jean Wadsworth, the AAUW-NJ Mini-Grant Chair and her committee for deeming us worthy of the grant every year.

Another factor contributing to the success of this program was the use of 10 senior girls from Point Pleasant Borough High School as facilitators in the breakout sessions. Pamela Coratti held training sessions prior to the day of the workshop for these young women so they could learn the material and would be more confident and competent facilitators. Members of NOCB acted as helpers at the training sessions, monitors of the breakout sessions, and volunteers for the day. NOCB is awarding the 10 senior PPBHS girls 25 hours of community service. The certificates were awarded at the January 20th NOCB monthly meeting.

open and, at the same time, she was offered the position of medical billing field supervisor.

On September 11, 2001, Phyllis was Incident Commander for the Weehawken side of the NY Ferry Waterway site. 60,000 people passed through her triage area on that terrible day and again in 2003 when the East Coast Black Out occurred.

At the ambulance company she works for she moved up through the ranks and eventually became the Captain (Chief of Operations). At the same time she had begun to do medical billing consultations for ambulance companies. In addition she became a certified 911 dispatcher. At one point she was not only Captain of her own squad but she was a supervisor at another and a deputy chief of a third. This was quite the accomplishment for a female in a male dominated field.

She decided it was time for her to get her college degree. She is currently an on-line student attending Devry University to obtain her degree in Health Information Technology. She has also become a certified professional coder and is the Finance Manager of Fertility Medical Practice.

Since her schooling is done through the internet, Walsh found it difficult to join any college related organizations. However, one day she came upon the AAUW National website and was intrigued by what AAUW offered women just like her. She could relate to the issues that involved woman and equality, especially with her experiences in the world of EMS.

Phyllis Walsh attended her first AAUW-NJ conference last spring and she said she was immediately welcomed by everyone. She was most impressed by the knowledge of the speakers and the friendliness of the group.

Through AAUW-NJ, she was sponsored to go to Washington DC in June of 2008 for a student leadership conference. She said it was a wonderful experience. She said she was most encouraged seeing so many empowered young women just like her. Walsh is excited about attending our future AAUW-NJ events and finds that AAUW women have an amazing way of representing topics that she feels passionately about.

From Left: Carol Pester, Tina Cartaino, Pat Baroska, Marie Hagemann, Emily Skola, Beth Kimber, Tiffany Fattizzi, Pamela Coratti, and Maureen Mitchell.
Thank you to all the branches who have contributed so generously this year to the Educational Foundation! Congratulations for your achievements!

Your contributions from your branch’s fundraising efforts and individual contributions are important and very appreciated. The money that you send to Washington for US and international fellowships, grants and awards for women is helping to break down barriers for women. Our pride and purpose in helping women to get ahead is a powerful way to motivate members. All of these individual donations for fundraisers and scholarships are tax deductible only if they are designated for AAUW Foundation in Washington.

Please feel free to call for assistance and help. Barbara Williamson 732-995-7749

Branches from around the state with highest to lowest donations are:
(January – December fiscal year 2008)

1. $3589  Somerset Hills
2. $3214  Northern Monmouth
3. $2899  Northern Ocean
4. $2139  Montclair
5. $2100  Rancocas Valley
6. $1564  Montclair
7. $1519  Trenton
8. $1140  Camden County
9. $  750  Atlantic City
10. $  739 Greater Wayne
11. $  600  Northwest Bergen
12. $  589  Nutley
13. $  550  Mountain Lakes
14. $  500  Sussex County
15. $  300  Willingboro
16. $  250  Rossmoor
17. $  200  Summit
18. $  110  Medford Area
19. $  39 Freehold
20. $  39  Salem County
21. $   0  Barnegat Light
22. $   0 Cumberland
23. $   0  DeVry
24. $   0  Gloucester County
25. $   0  Livingston
26. $   0  Mid Jersey
27. $   0  Plainfield
28. $   0  Watchung Hills

The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) is an international organization of women graduates, working for a better future by educating women and girls for their advancement and participation in public life. As AAUW is no longer a member of IFUW, US women graduates can join with women and girls all over the world by joining WG-USA.org. The dues are $50 per year. WG-USA is an online organization. All discussion and decisions are done through email blasts and the newsletter, The Flame. With membership in WG-USA, you will be able to attend the next IFUW triennial convention in Mexico City in 2010. For more information visit wgusa.org.
On Friday, January 30, 2009, 11 members of AAUW-NJ were part of the over 800 people who attended a conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. This was the eleventh in a series of annual conferences organized by The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN). The purpose of the conference is to link the needs of educators and concerned citizens to the priorities and perspectives of the UN. AAUW is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status on the UN’s Economic and Social (ECOSOC) Council.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Protecting Human Rights: The United Nations--Our Schools.” This theme coincides with the 60th anniversary of the signing of the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Eleanor Roosevelt served as the first chairperson of the UN Human Rights Commission and played an instrumental role in drafting the Declaration.

We were greeted by Under-Secretary-General Kiyotake Akasaka. In his welcoming remarks, he stated that one-half of the world’s population is under the age of 25. With this fact in mind, the UN will host the first Global Model UN in Geneva for young people between the ages of 18 and 24. The focus will be on the UN’s Millennium Development Goals. It will stress that political, economic and environmental issues have no boundaries in our modern world.

Craig Mokhiber, Deputy Director, NY Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN, reported that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the most translated document in the world—163 languages. He reported that human rights is moving backwards in the global perspective, particularly in the areas of national security versus personal security, asylum for genocide and political refugees, and the right to education and health care. We need to defend our rights and protect the rights of others to advance the doctrine of Declaration.

The morning panel discussion presented some surprising financial statistics about the UN. The state of Wyoming, which has the second smallest state budget, is twice the size of the UN budget. The Peacekeeping budget is one-eighth of the budget for the NYC Police Department. In discussing human rights, we were asked to think about persons with disabilities not as recipients of charity, but as recipients of equal rights for accommodation of their needs.

In addition, we were reminded that the first document to affirm equal rights for women was passed by the UN in 1979. The Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was signed by President Carter. It has been ratified by 185 member nations. The 8 nations who have not yet ratified are Iran, Nauru, Paulau, Qatar, Sudan, Tonga, Somalia and the United States. The current administration has stated the ratification will be a priority. Please contact your representatives and senators and ask them to push to have CEDAW released from committee for a vote to ratify.

One of the highlights of the CTAUN conference is the awarding of the Best Practices Awards to the schools who have initiated projects in conjunction with the theme of the conference. Last year’s theme was “Teaching and Learning in an Interdependent World.” Of the three awards given, two of them were to schools in New Jersey. The John Witherspoon Middle School in Princeton developed an interdisciplinary curriculum involving social studies, world languages, science, math and English. There was a culminating trip to the UN, which resulted in developing a community outreach program.

Our Lady of Good counsel School in Moorestown developed a “twinning” relationship with other schools, particularly with St. Francis Primary School in Kingston, Jamaica. They shared books and collected school supplies, and there have been visits by the Moorestown school to Jamaica. The local Rotary Club has worked in collaboration with the Kingston Rotary Club to raise money for disabled persons, particularly children, in Jamaica.

The afternoon panel featured an interactive video conference with a group from British Columbia, Cameroon and Pakistan. Charlotte Kole explained “muppet diplomacy,” the nonprofit educational organization of Sesame Street and its dedication to the cognitive, physical, emotional, environmental and social outreach of its international outreach. They help develop Sesame Street programs for children around the world, using the local culture as a basis to stress national values of the countries requesting assistance.

Shulamith Koenig, the Founding President of the People’s Movement for Human Rights Learning, said that charity gives dignity and identity through recognizing the individual’s needs. Apathy is a lack of identity. She stresses that we need to value similarity and to learn from differences.

There were questions from the video conference sites and an interchange of ideas. For many of us, this was our first experience of this kind. The keynote speaker for the conference was our very own member, Greg Mortensen! He told of his experiences in developing his schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Even having read Three Cups of Tea, his presentation was uplifting. One little known fact that Greg shared with us is that Afghanistan has the largest increase in school enrollment in the world. Greg has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize!
NEW JERSEY 100 CLUB 2008
100 hours of work for AAUW on the branch or state level
and/or $100 donated to EF, LAF or the NJ Charitable Trust

Mary Anne Anderl
Pat Armhold
Heather Balczarek
Gloria Berman
Kate Bigg
Eleanor Bowser
Mary Lea Burden
Nancy Butler
Pamela Coratti
Susan Gelber
Irene Gibson
Sally Goodson
Bonnie Gould
Carol Cohen
Chris Dasaro
Paula Dulski
Barbara Freeman
Maizie Frenkiel
Susan Haas
Barbara Hallaran
Carol Holmelund
Doris Hudak
Beryl Hunter
Becky Hughes
Arlene Inglis
Barbara Iwanski
Trudy Iwanski
Becky Kerns
Isabel Lopez-Kupilik
Virginia Lyttle
Alice MacPhee
Sally Minshall
Viki Mischenko
Jeannette Molzer
Carole Monesmith
Harriet Moore
Anne Morrison
Wendy Murphy
Laura Noll
Penny North
Joan Odud
Marilyn Parker
Carol Pester
Joanne Pisapia
Christine Rose
Marcia Saltzman
Patricia Shields
Regina Sieben
Barbara Skerry
Joan Spring
Leila Sulkes
Adelaide Swanson-Bonner
Vivian Tedrow
Barbara Tuzio
Marian Wattenbarger
Dee Wenzelburger
Barbara Williamson

On Wednesday, April 1, 2009, girls in grades 9 through 11 will have the opportunity to attend TECS/Teentech 2009, a day of hands-on technology workshops on the campus of The College of New Jersey in Ewing. This day of workshops to connect girls and technology, engineering and computer science is a continuation of the program begun by AAUW-NJ in 1999 for high school girls.

These workshops are designed to make technology exciting and relevant, and interest girls in pursuing high demand careers in an area where women are still underrepresented. Sessions will be taught by The College of New Jersey faculty with help from college students in the areas of technology, engineering and computer science. A sampling of the workshop choices includes Tsunami Challenge where students will design a delivery system to get a food packet to individuals stranded on an island or Robot Choreography where robots are programmed to dance and interact or Biomechanics of Breathing where students learn about how you breathe and do non-invasive measuring of breathing.

The registration deadline is March 18, 2009. Brochures have been mailed to secondary schools throughout New Jersey. If you know of a girl who is interested in attending this day of technology and has not received information through her high school, please e-mail Jean Wadsworth for further information, JSWPAAUWNJ@aol.com or a registration brochure.
REGISTRATION FORM
AAUW-NJ ANNUAL MEETING
Forsgate Country Club
375 Forsgate Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831
April 18, 2009

Name_____________________________________
Address____________________________________
City______________________ State____ Zip_____
Phone____________________ Email_____________
Branch____________________

Registration Cost—$25.00 (includes Continental Breakfast and Buffet Lunch)
Registration Deadline: Form must be postmarked by April 10, 2009.

***********************************************************
Send Registration Form with your $25.00 check made payable to AAUW-NJ
Mail Registration Form to: Pamela Coratti, 617 Mistletoe Avenue, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742

THE NOMINEES for OFFICE for the 2009-2010 TERM
Carol Holmelund, Nominating Chair

At the Annual Meeting, the following motion will be made for the membership's consideration, prior to election of officers:

Proposed: At the discretion of the Board, a third term for an individual officer may be proposed by the Nominating Committee, approved by the Board. Such an officer shall be included in the Election of Officers for consideration at the State Annual Meeting, and shall require a favorable vote by at least 2/3 of the voting members present.

Explanation: Currently officers are limited to two (2) two-year terms in an effort to avoid the formation of leadership cliques that might exclude capable and willing people from joining the board. However, officers who have learned their job and who are willing to give two more years to it should on occasion be allowed to do so, as we face culture changes wherein many younger members are working full-time while caring for family and are unable to give time to serve on the board.

The Nominees for office for the 2009-2010 (fiscal year {FY} 2010) are:

Membership Vice-President: Barbara Williamson, first 2-year term
Educational Foundation Chair: Jessica Pierson, first 2-year term
Equity and Program Co-Vice-Presidents: Pamela Coratti and Timamu Wilson, first 2-year term (Filled out vacated 2009 term)
Southern District Co-Coordinator: Barbara Tuzio, first 2-year term (Filled out vacated 2009 term) and one Open position
Northern District Co-Coordinator: Sally Goodson, 2nd 2-year term
Co-Public Policy Directors: Adrienne Lesser, 3rd 2-year term (if motion to allow 3rd term passes) and Linda Beltran, 1st 2-year term
Secretary: Sylvia Campbell, 2nd 2-year term
Treasurer: Kathy Barra, 1st 2-year term
Legal Advocacy Fund Chair: Ruth Nielson, 2nd 2-year term
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

American Association of University Women
1111 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington DC 20036
Phone: 202-785-7700/800-326-AAUW; Website Address: WWW.AAUW.ORG