



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

# THE FORUM

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Atlantic County Branch, New Jersey

February 2009

*~Visit us on the web at [www.aauwacnj.org](http://www.aauwacnj.org)*

## *President's Notes Sonya Bertini*

On Monday, January 5, 2009 AAUW kicked off the Keep the Change Until Women Have Real Change campaign. According to new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 the ratio of women's and men's median annual earning reached almost 78 cents to the dollar for full-time, year round workers, up from just under 77 cents in 2006. While it's true that this is the narrowest the wage gap has ever been, it's only an additional one cent on the dollar. One cent is just chump change, it isn't real change. That's why AAUW is telling Congress to Keep the Change until Women Have Real Change. Get involved in this campaign and find out how you can spread the word by logging onto [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and clicking the advocacy link. It's time for change across the board, ladies! Let's make it happen!



## *Program Mildred Thomas & Gail Zona*

We are pleased to announce that our speaker for the meeting on **Saturday, February 21, 2009** will be **JUNE CROSS**, a woman with a fascinating background as an author, journalist and award-winning

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***Program  
Mildred Thomas & Gail Zona***

television producer with over thirty years of experience in both commercial and public television. June Cross was raised in Atlantic City and her personal story is told in her book, SECRET DAUGHTER.

The buffet lunch **cost is \$15**, payable at the door. **Please call Gail Zona to RSVP by Feb. 18th** so we can properly prepare for the luncheon. We will meet at **12 noon at the side entrance to the Linwood Library at 301 Davis Avenue, Linwood, NJ.**

June will speak of her journey and struggle with racism and personal identity and the fulfillment of her dream as a professional journalist, college professor and career in film. Friends and guests are welcome to join us that day.

***Membership  
Maureen Page***

We welcome Rosemarie Giuta to our chapter of AAUW. Rosemarie is a graduate of West Chester University in Pennsylvania. She has a Masters in Music Education. Rose was one of the cast members in the AAUW production of "The Holiday Coffee".

Please say Hello to Rose at our February meeting.

**STAR  
(Sisters Together Against Racism)  
Gail Zona**

The meeting of STAR will be at the home of Laura Hickman, 302 Spencer Lane, Galloway, NJ on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 5:30pm for dinner and 6:30pm for the program. Sisters will hear from several financial planners on things that women should definitely be prepared to deal with for themselves and their families.

Call DeAnna Corbin if you plan to attend this meeting.

Many Sisters attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast held on Thursday, January 22nd at the Atlantic City Country Club. It was inspiring to see and hear from the many students as they spoke of how the 2008 Presidential Election of Barak Obama has begun fulfilling the dream of Dr. King. STAR sponsored the attendance of four of the high school students at this 28th Annual MLK Breakfast that is a major educational effort of the American Conference on Diversity, Atlantic County Branch.

***Treasurer's Report  
Betsy Reed***

As of January 1, 2009 the Operating Account has a balance of \$3964.40

## ***No Child Left Behind Act Reauthorization***

**Source:** [http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue\\_advocacy/upload/](http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/upload/)

AAUW believes that quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society. In 2002, AAUW joined in the bipartisan enthusiasm when the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law—which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965—was first passed, hoping the law would provide a remedy for ailing schools and low student performance. There are some good elements to NCLB, such as increased teacher and school accountability, higher standards of achievement for student progress, supplemental service funds for low-income students, and public school choice for students who attend underperforming schools. Unfortunately, there is a large difference between implementation of the law and realization of program goals. While NCLB set lofty aspirations, the law’s unfunded mandates have left many states and school districts in dire straits; in fact, NCLB has been underfunded to the tune of over \$70 billion since its inception.<sup>1</sup> AAUW believes it is possible—and necessary—to maintain a commitment to high standards and greater accountability in our nation’s public schools. As Congress contemplates reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, AAUW will pursue the following improvements in addition to more general efforts—including increased funding—to strengthen the law’s goals, improve its implementation, and make clear progress in closing the achievement gap.

**Strengthening STEM Education:** AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. NCLB should include science as a required area of assessment used to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress goals. By measuring student performance and disaggregating data by gender, race, and socioeconomic status, we can obtain valuable information about student aptitude in science and better identify opportunities to improve girls’ exposure to and achievement in science.

**Requiring High Schools Sports Data Collection:** Require high schools to report basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Access to such data will enhance compliance with Title IX and aid in the continued expansion of athletic opportunities for girls at the high school level. This is important because while girls comprise 49 percent of the high school population,<sup>2</sup> they receive only 41 percent of all athletic participation opportunities, amounting to 1.3 million fewer participation opportunities than male high school athletes.<sup>3</sup>

**Supporting Reauthorization and Implementation of the Women’s Educational Equity Act:** This law was first enacted in 1974 to promote educational equity for women and girls, through the provision of funds to help education agencies and institutions meet the requirements of Title IX. AAUW strongly supports the full funding of this act, and the appropriate application of these funds to meet the goals of the program.

**Creating Environments Free of Bullying and Harassment:** The implementation of stronger policies to deter bullying and harassment will help to ensure a safe learning environment for all students. Almost a decade ago, AAUW’s own research revealed that 83 percent of girls and 79 percent of boys reported having experienced sexual harassment, and over one in four students stated that harassment happens “often.”<sup>4</sup> More recent research shows that bullying affects nearly one in three American school children in grades six through ten.<sup>5</sup> Legislation aimed at reducing this problem should include the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights’ definition of harassment and identify the classes that are protected, including actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion.

**Decreasing the Use of High-stakes Testing and Using Multiple Measures:** AAUW believes in holding schools accountable for demonstrating that they are meeting educational goals. However, it is both problematic and discriminatory to rely on tests as the sole indicator of student progress. AAUW is supportive of provisions encouraging the use of multiple measures of student achievement—including flexible and innovative growth models and tracking the same group of students over time to determine whether schools meet annual benchmarks.

**Expanding Afterschool Programs through 21st Century Learning Centers:** After-school programs should be expanded to enrich the school experience and improve educational outcomes. One program vehicle might be the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers; this could also be used to expand STEM programs—currently allowed as an option but given no real incentive.

For more information, call Lisa Maatz, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, 202/785-7793 or Tracy Sherman, Government Relations Manager, 202/785-7730.

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# February 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14  St. Valentine's Day
15	16  President's Day	17	18 RSVP due for attending Branch Meeting	19	20	21 Branch Meeting 12 noon Linwood Library Featuring June Cross
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



The **American Association of University Women** promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and a positive societal change. The **AAUW Educational Foundation** provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and societal change. **The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination. In principal 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 or disability.

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