



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

THE FORUM

Volume 108 , No. 5
Atlantic County Branch, New Jersey

January 2009

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President's Notes ***Sonya Bertini***

Happy New Year and Good News!!

AAUW is pleased to support the nomination of Hilda Solis (D-Calif) for Secretary of Labor. According to AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman, Rep. Solis "has been a champion for working women and their families." She received a perfect score from AAUW in the 110th Congress for votes in such critical issues as pay equity, paid parental leave, and reducing the cost of college. Lisa Matz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations noted, "Solis understand the critical role women play in today's workforce and she cares deeply about the issues of pay equity and work-life balance. It will be a wonderful change of pace to have a proactive Department of Labor that is responsive to these universal concerns." I am sure I join all of you in congratulating Ms. Solis on her important appointment and President elect Obama on his wise choice.

Program ***Mildred Thomas***

We are honored to have as our guest speaker a local artist - Lucy Jerue. She is involved with the Galloway Art Center and is a retired librarian.

The topic for the evening will be Monet Gardens. Mrs. Jerue is bringing a guest artist Bonnie Cavalier who will also display her artwork. Mrs. Cavalier is an instructor at the Arts Center of Galloway Township. Our meeting date is Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 12:00pm at the Galloway Township Library meeting room. The library is located on Jimmie Leeds Road behind the Galloway Township Municipal buildings.

Contact Priscilla Wilkinson for reservations. The lunch fee is \$10.00.

Book Group ***Marylou Breidenstine***

The Book Group will meet on January 7th at 7:30pm at the home of Mary Lou Breidenstine. "The Class Castle" by Jeanette Walls will be discussed.

Looking Ahead: Karen Weis will review "Omnivore's Delight" by Michael Pollan on February 18 at Audrey Owen's home.

The next book for the American Literature group will be "Go Tell it On the Mountain" by James Baldwin. This book is a fictionalized version of the author's childhood in Harlem. The date will be announced later.

Travel Group Carolyn Bassett

The Travel Group had two fun and informative meetings this fall - one given by Gail Zona and one by Jackie Sarner with assists from Karen Aarons and Claire Moyer. The next meeting will be presented by Betsy Reed at her house on February 11 at 7:30pm. Betsy and her husband went on a lengthy cruise which included Russia and several of the Scandinavian countries as well as a great deal of time spent on shore exploring cities and countryside. Please call Betsy if you will be able to attend.

STAR Gail Zona

On December 15th, STAR (Sisters Together Against Racism) members and guests met at the home of Rosalind Norrell-Nance for a holiday dinner and program. Arlene Groch opened the diverse religious/celebrations with Chanukah's background, customs and the lighting of the Menorah. Karen Johnson led us into the African-American celebration of Kwanzaa. There was general discussion of Sisters' personal remembrances of family traditions, etc. A very good time was had by all.

On behalf of the Sisters, we wish to thank all the AAUW members that attended the American Conference on Diversity's Humanitarian Awards Program on December 4, 2008. There were 30 people attending from AAUW and STAR in support of the award accepted by Gail Zona on behalf of STAR for its many goals achieved to date.

AAUW Applauds Choice of Hilda Solis for Labor Secretary

WASHINGTON — AAUW is pleased to support the nomination of Rep. Hilda Solis for Secretary of Labor. President-elect Barack Obama announced the nomination at a news conference this afternoon. "AAUW is delighted at the prospect of Hilda Solis having a seat at the cabinet table," said AAUW Executive (continued in next column)

AAUW Applauds Choice of Hilda Solis for Labor Secretary - continued

Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "Throughout her career, she has been a champion for working women and their families. President-elect Obama has made a wise choice." Hilda Solis has a long history of being on the right side of issues that matter most to America's families. As a state legislator, she was instrumental in raising California's minimum wage in 1996. She also authored pioneering legislation on environmental justice issues, for which she became the first woman to receive a Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. Solis was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000 and, for the past eight years, has fought for women on a national scale.

"Hilda Solis received a perfect score from AAUW in the 110th Congress for votes on such critical issues as pay equity, paid parental leave, and reducing the cost of college," said Lisa M. Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "Solis has been a leader on pay equity, co-sponsoring both the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act, two bills that would go a long way toward closing the persistent wage gap faced by American women

AAUW Concerned about Bush Administration's "Midnight" Regulations Source: www.aauw.org

Urges President-elect Obama and Congress to Block Implementation of Harmful New Rules

WASHINGTON — AAUW opposes a new Department of Health and Human Services regulation, finalized today as the latest in a series of last-minute regulations issued by the Bush administration.

"The Bush administration has issued another 11th hour rule that will make it harder for women to balance work and family," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "From restricting the ability of women to take leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act to blocking access to essential family planning services, the administration's last-minute regulations are a giant lump of coal this holiday season."

The new HHS regulation will severely limit women's access to reproductive health and family planning services, including some of the most common forms of birth control.

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The rule unnecessarily expands existing policies that allow health care employees to refuse to provide any service that is in any way contrary to their personal beliefs — so-called conscience clauses. The new rule allows workers to refuse to provide such services, information, and referrals without any consideration for patients' access to appropriate care and full information.

"There is an extensive body of laws, regulations, and court precedent that currently balances the religious rights of workers with the practical needs of employers, all while ensuring a patient's access to reproductive health care," said Lisa M. Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "This delicate balance, which is vital to providing critical health care services including family planning, is destroyed by the new rule."

The problematic HHS rule comes on the heels of a regulation published just last month that weakens the protections afforded by the Family and Medical Leave Act, making it more difficult for most workers to take job-protected leave and impinging on their privacy in the process.

"AAUW is urging both the president-elect and the new Congress to take a hard look at all the midnight regulations issued by the outgoing administration, and we're confident that we can effectively reverse this latest direction in the damaging course laid by President Bush," said Hallman.

AAUW submitted comments urging the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to improve the reproductive health and safety of all women and girls rather than limit it. In addition, thousands of AAUW members contacted the Bush administration and urged them not to finalize the harmful regulation. Similar comments were submitted to the Department of Labor regarding the FMLA rules.

January 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7 Book Group 7:30pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 AAUW Branch meeting 12:00pm at the Galloway Township Library meeting room



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.

AAUW, Atlantic County Branch
c/o Jackie Sarnier
523 Holly Brook Rd
Galloway, NJ 08205

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