



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

THE FORUM

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Atlantic County Branch, New Jersey

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Program Carolyn Bassett

WHAT: FROM THE KILLING FIELDS TO THE "HEALING FIELDS"
8 YEARS VOLUNTEERING IN CAMBODIA

We've all heard about the horror of the Khemer Rouge and the devastating effect they had on Cambodia. But what is the situation today?

Come and hear Dr. Bob Nassau and Nancy Storrow describe how their volunteer work has helped promote health care in this once ravaged land, and the progress they have observed as Cambodia has rebounded from such a devastating chapter in her history. Learn about the culture of Cambodia and how the country is redefining itself as a major tourist attraction on the world scene.

Please invite others to attend the program (including men).

WHERE: Linwood Library, Davis Ave, Linwood (If you need directions call 652-2352.)

WHEN: October 19, at 7:30

President's Notes Emely Aiken

President's Notes:

The 40 or so core members who attended the "just for us" dinner on September 21 not only enjoyed wonderful food, but came away with renewed appreciation for the work, (yes, work!), contributed by our officers, chairpersons, and committee members.

The vitality of our branch is the result of team effort and ideas. Over the next few months, Judy Page and Connie Smedley will be collating the information from the members' questionnaire they created and are in the process of distributing.

The results will guide the direction of future planning. We have book groups, a film group, a travel group, a Spanish conversation group, a STAR group and monthly programs or activities in varied venues in the company of intelligent, friendly women. As Carolyn Bassett so aptly wrote, "Our programs foster our members' intellectual growth in a variety of ways, which I find very rewarding."

Come and be a participant. We need you!

Public Policy **Audrey Moloney**

AAUW and other groups fought the battle for equal opportunities for girls in sports programs years ago. *Title IX* is the law which prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs (including sports) that receive federal funds. However, National reports that many high schools aren't "playing by the rules!" They either are not aware of or are outright dismissive of *Title IX*. Our *Legal Advocacy Fund* is fighting back and deserves our support to ensure that girls are treated fairly. It is important to realize that girls who participate in athletics generally do better academically and stay in school, gain in self-esteem and develop leadership skills. Legislation is pending in Congress which would require high schools to publish gender and race sports participation data on publically accessible web pages which would allow parents and students to track progress their schools are making towards equal opportunity athletic participation. (S. 471/H.R.2882) On a positive note, last month the 2008 WNBA Champs (*The Detroit Shock*) were honored by President Obama at the White House and Tracey Sherman, AAUW's government relations manager was in attendance. The president noted that his young daughters have never known a time when there weren't professional sports teams.

On Sept 12th Lisa Maatz AAUW's policy advisor issued a statement in light of the income data just released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The data shows that the wage gap between men & women remains "stubbornly in place." "AAUW remains committed to the passage of the *Paycheck Fairness Act* (S. 182/H.R. 12) This measure has passed in The House but not yet in the Senate. Along with the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act passage this Act will help create a climate in which pay discrimination is not tolerated."

WWW.AAUW.ORG for more information.

FYI: Noteworthy AAUW member: Dr. Juanita Kreps, Secretary of Commerce from 1977-1979. Former chairperson of AAUW Committee on American Fellowships.

Travel Group **Carolyn**

On October 21 the group will meet at Carolyn Bassett's house, but the program will be given by Jeannine Brown on her very recent trip to Costa Rica to language school and traveling. Jeannine spent 3 weeks studying Spanish & living with a Costa Rican family, and she also enjoyed many of Costa Rica's natural beauty spots. The program on Argentina (which had been announced) will be given later in the year.

Educational Foundation Activities **Co-chairs Educational Foundation** **Christine Ecker** **Connie Smedley**

Atlantic County Branch of AAUW awards three scholarships each year to deserving young women.

In memory of Emily Tort a \$1,000.00 scholarship was awarded to Tiffany Vellon, a student at Atlantic Cape Community College. Additionally, two \$1,000.00 scholarships representing the annual distribution of the Kathryn Carrigan Scholarship were awarded. Carolina Overs, enrolled currently in the Stockton Teacher Education Program received the \$1,000.00 award. As of this press release, The College of New Jersey has yet to respond with the name of their recipient.

In keeping with our goal of promoting women's opportunities in education, the Atlantic County branch of AAUW raises money each year to award \$200.00 book scholarships to deserving young women from each of the seven Atlantic County high schools. The high schools include Absegami, Atlantic City, EHT, Hammonton, Mainland Regional, Oakcrest and Pleasantville. Branch member volunteers presented these awards at each school's ceremony.

AAUW Reacts to New Census Data that Shows the Wage Gap is Stubbornly in Place

Calls for Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act

Source: [AAUW.org](http://www.aauw.org)

Washington – Lisa Maatz, AAUW's top policy adviser, issued the following statement in light of the income data released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

"The government's new report on income, poverty, and health insurance coverage shows that the wage gap between men and women working full time remains stubbornly in place. In 2007, the average woman made almost 78 cents for each dollar earned by her male counterpart. According to newly released 2008 figures, that number now stands at just over 77 cents for each dollar earned by a man. Given the tough economic times, some might say that women should be satisfied that the gap didn't widen. However, given that the wage gap has been stagnant over the past decade — in good times and bad — AAUW sees this as a time for action.

It is critical that we make real progress on closing the wage gap. Wage discrimination hurts whole families, not just women. This is not a time for employers to fall back on the stereotypes of men as the primary breadwinners, and tough economic times are not sufficient excuse to ignore civil rights laws. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about a fifth of families with children are headed by single working moms, and nearly half of all families with children depend on two paychecks. Clearly a majority of working families have a stake in equal pay for equal work. These are real women, working everyday to make ends meet. They are not asking for special treatment; they are asking for simple justice.

AAUW remains committed to passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 182/H.R. 12), a much-needed update to the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Congress made an important statement earlier this year by adopting the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act — the first bill signed into law by President Barack Obama. But it's only the first step to fair pay. The Paycheck Fairness Act, along with the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, will help create a climate in which pay discrimination is not tolerated. The House has already passed the measure, but the Senate needs to take up the mantle. It's time we strengthened the Equal Pay Act so that it can finally live up to its name."

For more information or to schedule an interview with AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz, please contact Lisa Goodnight, AAUW Sr. Media Relations & Marketing Associate at 202/785-7738 or goodnightl@aauw.org.

To learn more about AAUW's position on pay equity, visit: http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/actionpages/payequity.cfm

Roster
Betsy Reed

Please add the following to your Rosters. Dues arrived after the Roster had gone to the printer.

Nancy Albrecht
2506 Herbert Drive
Northfield, NJ 08225
BA, Glassboro State College
646-0408
thealbrechtfamily1@juno.com

Barbara Birschstein
5040 Tremont Avenue
EHT, NJ 08234
B. Ed Toledo University
927-6057

WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD
Gail Zona

In March 2010, Atlantic County Branch AAUW will again be awarding a local woman who has distinguished herself by her service to others in some unique way. Several names have been proposed but I ask for all of you to think of more candidates.

Qualifications include a woman whose talents and accomplishments have mainly benefited Atlantic County area, that she not be a member of our branch. Those honored to date include **ANNE HARLAN**, Dir. Of FAA Tech Center, **SUSAN HOPKINS**, CEO o Resorts Int'l, **SARAH GRIFFITH**, Director of Gilda's Club, **JENNIFER HANSEN**, Director of Hansen Houses, **CORRINE SPARENBERG**, Miss America Hostess Comm.Chair and Volunteerism and **EFFIE JENKINS SMITH**, Educator and Innovator.

Please give me a call (641-1986) with your suggestion(s). We know there are many women in the Atlantic County area who deserve this recognition. I thank you for your support in this branch project.

STAR
(SISTERS TOGETHER AGAINST RACISM)
Gail Zona

On Sept. 16th, STAR met at the home of Arlene Groch in Northfield, NJ to discuss our views and concerns about the all important topic of **NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM**. It was a lively discussion with diverse views on many issues. The Sisters agreed that it is important that we all let our legislators know what we want to see in the bill during this Fall planning period in Congress.

STAR will be attending a **Friday Service (Jumuah)** at **2pm on October 30, 2009** at Masjid Muhammed Mosque, 300 N. Albany Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ. We have been invited along with Margate Community Church to observe the 1 hour service and meet the Imam and learn more about the Faith of Islam. If you would like to **join us**, please **call Gail for the details**. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to grow in knowledge about the Muslim/ Americans living in this area and have many of our questions answered.

New Forum Editor
JOAN LEAVY - (823-3442)
sk8s2@comcast.net

JOAN LEAVY will be the new Forum Editor beginning with the November issue.

Will all board members please send in November articles to my email address (sk8s2@comcast.net (823-3442)) by October 15th.

Keep Our Workers, Our Families, and Our Nation Healthy

Source: AAUW.ORG

Across the nation, preparations are underway for what could be a busy flu season this fall. Doctor's offices and pharmacies have already started administering seasonal flu vaccines. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved the use of one dose of the H1N1 flu vaccine, expected to be available soon, for people over the age of 10. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released new guidance for employers to decrease the spread of the flu strains.

Among other recommendations, the CDC guidance tells employers that regardless of the size of their business or the function or services they provide, "all employers should plan now to allow and encourage sick workers to stay home without fear of losing their jobs." In addition, the guidance recommends that employers institute flexible workplace and leave policies for sick workers, those who stay home to care for ill family members, and those who must stay home to watch their children if dismissed from school.

While AAUW applauds the CDC recommendations, millions of Americans still don't have the option of taking a sick day to care for family members or themselves without putting their jobs, their healthcare benefits, or their financial stability at risk because they lack paid sick days. In fact, nearly half of American private-sector workers have no paid sick days at all. Many workers who have the most contact with the public, including food service, hotel, child care, retail, and nursing home workers, are even less likely to have paid sick days.

The **Healthy Families Act (H.R. 2460/S. 1152)** would provide full-time employees with seven paid sick days a year to be used for their own medical needs or to tend to the medical needs of a family member. It would also allow workers to use paid sick time to recover from or seek assistance related to an incidence of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault. Part-time employees would receive a pro-rated share of paid sick days.

Paid sick days are a public health issue. In these tough economic times, however, the decision to stay home without pay is a very difficult one. Without the enactment of the Healthy Families Act, it's also a decision that too many American workers may be forced to make this flu season.

Take Action!

Urge your representative to cosponsor the **Healthy Families Act** to ensure American workers will be able to care for themselves and their families during times of illness. Simply enter your zip code and click "Go!" Then follow the instructions to compose and send your message.

If your representative has already signed on as a cosponsor, you will be able to send him or her a message of thanks.

For more information, read our position paper on workplace policies that allow employees to balance the responsibilities of work and family found at http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/actionpages/fmla.cfm .

Urge Your Representative to Support the Healthy Families Act



OCTOBER 2009

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|---------|---|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Branch Mtg 7pm Linwood Library | 20 | 21 Travel Group Carolyn Bassett's house | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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 Sarner
523 Holly Brook Road
Galloway, NJ 08205



DATED MATERIAL