



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

THE FORUM

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Atlantic County Branch, New Jersey

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President's Notes Sonya Bertini

I was very fortunate to be able to join my husband Richard in Denver, Colorado for the Democratic National Convention. It was electrifying and historic. During convention week I was privileged to hear so many inspiring speakers, one of whom was Libby Ledbetter. Libby's actions against Goodyear Tire led to the passage by Congress of the Fair Pay Restoration Act which has unfortunately been blocked by the Republican controlled Senate. Throughout this heated presidential campaign, I am constantly reminded of how much women have at stake in this election. We still earn less than men, our right to safe family planning is under attack, most of those without health care are women and children, and our sons and daughters are dying overseas. As your president, I feel compelled to encourage you to gear up for Election Day by getting informed. Read AAUW's "Congressional Voting Record for the 110th Congress, First Session" to find out how your elected officials voted on issues important to women and girls by logging on

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Program Mildred Thomas

Members focus your eyes on this. We are having our local politicians Dennis Levinson and Dr. Jeff Van Drew to speak at our meeting on October 20, 2008 at the Northfield United Methodist Church. Topics to be discussed are the economy, the war, etc. We are also asking the gentlemen to arrive at **7:00pm** to socialize with us before the formal gathering. There will be paper available for you to write any questions you would like to have them discuss. We will pull questions from the box that you have submitted to be answered.



Dennis Levinson was elected Atlantic County executive in November, 1999. His term in office began with his official swearing-in January 1, 2000.

Mr. Levinson served four terms as Freeholder-at-Large. He was first elected to the Board in 1986 and served as Vice Chairman in 1988, 1991 and 1992. Mr. Levinson was elected Chairman of the Board in 1994, 1996 and 1997.

Prior to his election to the Board of Freeholders he served as a Councilman in the city of Northfield from 1982 to 1986. Mr. Levinson is a member of many professional and community organizations.

He lives in Linwood with his wife Patricia and their three children, Matthew, Nicholas and Sarah.



Jeff Van Drew is an American Democratic Party politician who has served in the New Jersey Senate since 2008, where he represents the 1st legislative district. From 2002-2008, Van Drew served in the General Assembly.

On November 6, 2007, Van Drew won his bid for a seat in the New Jersey Senate. Van Drew serves in the Senate on the Environment Committee (as Vice-Chair), the Community and Urban Affairs Committee and the Transportation Committee.^[1]

In the Assembly, Van Drew was a prime sponsor of the Fair Market Drug Pricing Act to provide reduced prescription drugs to eligible low-income consumers. He has also sponsored legislation to address New Jersey's nursing shortage. Among his other legislative achievements are prohibiting unwanted telemarketing calls, controlling prescription drug errors, enforcing the ban on self-service gasoline stations, protections against predatory lending and tougher penalties for those who use the Internet to prey on children.

President's Notes
Sonya Beertini

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to AAUW's website. Come to our important, informative branch meeting on October 20th to hear elected officials from both parties talk about the issues and answer your questions. Most importantly, vote and make sure other women do too. This is a critical time and not one to sit back. I look forward to seeing you all in October.

Editor's Note: To view congressional voting records go to http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/voter_ed/votingrecord.cfm

Travel Group
Carolyn Bassett

The travel group will meet at the home of Gail Zona on Wednesday October 15 to hear Gail tell about the trip she and Henry took through the Panama Canal. This will be the first time we have had a program about a cruise, so Gail will discuss aspects of a cruise as well as details about the canal. Please call Gail to tell her if you plan to come.

In November we will meet at the home of Jackie Sarnier to hear about her month-long trip to New Zealand, much of it spent using youth hostels as her lodgings. Jackie will give us details about the country as well as sharing her experiences with this low-cost way of traveling. The date is Nov19 (Wednesday) - Call Jackie if you plan to come Both programs are at 7:30.

If you would like to present a program or have an idea for a topic, please call Carolyn Bassett and let her know

Forum articles are due on the
15th of every month
Send information to
Sandy Swain
sandras412@verizon.net

Finance - 2008-2009 Budget
Betsy Reed

Income

- Branch Dues \$850
- Interest \$40
- College Fair \$500
- Luncheons/Dinners \$400
- Raffles/50-50 \$100
- Operational Fundraisers \$500

TOTAL INCOME \$2390

Disbursements

- Membership Services* \$750
- College Fair \$300
- Insurance \$350
- Venue Rental \$200
- Incorporation/Legal \$100
- Hospitality \$150
- Programs \$1500
- AAUW Legal \$100
- Conventions/Conferences \$200
- Chair/Officer Expenses \$300
- Woman of Distinction \$300

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$4250

* Membership Services includes rosters, mailings and labels

STAR
Gail Zona

The STAR meeting of September 29, 2008 was held at the home of Rosalind Norrell-Nance in Egg Harbor Township. The dinner was followed by a book discussion of "Destined to Witness: Growing Up Black in Nazi Germany" by Hans JESUS. Mas-saquoi. A video on this topic was part of the program as well.

The October 27, 2008 meeting will be held at the Meeting Room of the Galloway Township Library on Jim Leeds Road (6pm-your light dinner, 7pm-Program to be announced). Meetings are open to all women,. Further information contact Gail.

Woman of Distinction Award Gail Zona

Corinne Sparenberg of Linwood, NJ received the 2008 Bernice Kennedy woman of distinction award from our branch at the Mays Landing country club on may 19, 2008.

The friends, family and associates of Corinne plus our many AAUW members filled the banquet room that evening as commendations from us Congressman Frank LoBiondo, US Senator Frank Lautenberg and state Senator James Whelan were read.

The Press took many pictures of the honoree, AAUW officers, etc. during the cocktail hour and concluded with a huge group picture of Corinne Sparenberg and Miss America Pageant hostesses.

President Sonya Bertini spoke of the founder of this award, past President Bernice Connor Kennedy, who died in December 2006. Her professional background was more than impressive with years of experience in publishing (McCall's, ladies home journal and her own magazine, girl talk). what a fitting reminder for all our members that her accomplishments in the business community, her extensive church and volunteer activities and warm friendship to all will always be remembered.

Our branch was proud to recognize with a large plaque the 38 years of community service performed by Corinne. Representatives of Miss America organization, Ms (Ruth Newman Shapiro) Cancer and Heart Fund, South Jersey Aids Alliance and Contact Cape Atlantic Crisis Hotline attended. Over \$900 was realized that evening which will be allocated to local scholarship programs, namely, ACCC book scholarships and Stockton scholarships.

This very gracious and generous awardee sent our branch \$300 for scholarships soon after the event. Thanks, Corinne Sparenberg – a fine example of Atlantic City roots at their best!!

Special thanks to banquet/reservation coordinator, Helen Riso, for an outstanding job of handling all the details of the dinner, table reservations, mailings, etc. It was an outstanding evening from start to finish with your special touch, Helen.



Membership Francine Bates

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our Atlantic County Branch of AAUW:

Marian A. Talese

Margo McNally

Margaret (Peggy) Creegan

Lily Ledbetter Convention Speech 2008



Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 07:20 PM

Good evening. Many of you are probably asking: Who is that grandmother from Alabama at the podium? I can assure you, nobody is more surprised, or humbled, than I am. I'm here to talk about America's commitment to fairness and equality, and how people like me—and like you—suffer when that commitment is betrayed.

How fitting that I speak to you on Women's Equality Day, when we celebrate ratification of the amendment that gave women the right to vote. Even as we celebrate, let's also remind ourselves: the fight for equality is not over. I know that from personal experience. I was a trailblazer when I went to work as a female supervisor at a Goodyear tire plant in Gadsden, Alabama.

My job demanded a lot, and I gave it 100 percent. I kept up with every one of my male co-workers. But toward the end of my 19 years at Goodyear, I began to suspect that I wasn't getting paid as much as men doing the same job. An anonymous note in my mailbox confirmed that I was right. Despite praising me for my work, Goodyear gave me smaller raises than my male co-managers, over and over.

Those differences affected my family's quality of life then, and they affect my retirement now. When I discovered the injustice, I thought about moving on. But in the end, I couldn't ignore the discrimination. So I went to court. A jury agreed with me. They found that my employer had violated the law and awarded me what I was owed.

I hoped the verdict would make my company feel the sting, learn a lesson and never again treat women unfairly. But they appealed, all the way to the Supreme Court, and in a 5-to-4 decision our highest court

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sided with big business. They said I should have filed my complaint within six months of Goodyear's first decision to pay me less, even though I didn't know that's what they were doing.

In dissent, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote that the ruling made no sense in the real world. She was right. The House of Representatives passed a bill that would make sure what was done to me couldn't happen again. But when it got to the Senate, enough Republicans opposed it to prevent a vote.

We can't afford more of the same votes that deny women their equal rights. Barack Obama is on our side. He is fighting to fix this terrible ruling, and as president, he has promised to appoint justices who will enforce laws that protect everyday people like me. But this isn't a Democratic or a Republican issue. It's a fairness issue. And fortunately, there are some Republicans—and a lot of Democrats—who are on our side.

My case is over. I will never receive the pay I deserve. But there will be a far richer reward if we secure fair pay. For our children and grandchildren, so that no one will ever again experience the discrimination that I did. Equal pay for equal work is a fundamental American principle. We need leaders in this country who will fight for it. With all of us working together, we can have the change we need and the opportunity we all deserve.

Thank you.

Background Information

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ledbetter_v._Goodyear

Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., 550 U.S. ____ (2007), is an employment discrimination decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. Justice Alito held for the five-justice majority that employers are protected from lawsuits over race or gender pay discrimination if the claims are based on decisions made by the employer 180 days ago or more.

This was a case of statutory rather than constitutional interpretation. The plaintiff in this case, Lilly Ledbetter, characterized her situation as one where "disparate pay is received during the statutory limitations period, but is the result of intentionally discriminatory pay decisions that occurred outside the limitations period." In rejecting Ledbetter's appeal, the Supreme Court said that "she could have, and should have, sued" when the pay decisions were made, instead of waiting beyond the 180-day statutory charging period.



OCTOBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Travel Group Home of Gail Zona	16	17	18
19	20 Chapter Mtg. Northfield Methodist Church	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 STAR Galloway Twp Library	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



DATED MATERIAL

