



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

THE FORUM

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Atlantic County Branch, New Jersey

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~Visit us on the web at www.aauwacnj.org

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

AAUW has announced its new partnership with CARE, a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. AAUW became acquainted with CARE through the *I am Powerful* campaign, which focuses on helping women around the world empower their lives. CARE's worldwide programming involves many initiatives for women, including education, networking, and financial literacy-important priorities for AAUW. Both partners will share programming initiatives of mutual benefit to our organizations.

On September 27, 2007 President Bush signed into law the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, a bill that will increase scholarships and reduce loan costs for undergraduate students. This victory was made possible in large part by the messages sent to Congress by members of the AAUW Action Network.

AAUW Monthly Meeting ***Helen Riso***

The Irish are coming on Monday, November 19th at 7:30pm at the Good Shepherd Methodist Church in Northfield.

You don't have to wear green, but do come and witness one aspect of Irish Culture as you enjoy an informative and entertaining program. The Jersey Shore Dancers look forward to showing off some advanced steps honed at their monthly "ceili". Guests are always welcome. Refreshments and business meeting will follow the program.

For directions, please call Helen Riso.

***College Fair Helpers
Lee Ellenberg***

The annual College Fair, co-sponsored by AAUW and the Kiwanis Club, was held on Sunday, September 30th, and was quite successful. Students and parents were able to meet with college reps over a two-hour period. Many thanks to the people who distributed posters and fliers to the high schools. The many hours contributed by the following people were greatly appreciated: Sonya Bertini, Betsy Reed, Juanita Habron, Maureen Page and Helen Riso.

***Roster Update
Joan Leavy***

Please make the following changes to your AAUW Roster booklet::

- Joan Beth Vicari's correct email address is jbvicari@Yahoo.com
- Mrs. Christakos' correct name is Zoe Christakos.
- Pam Saunders' email address has changed to saundersaul@verizon.net
- Francine Bates' new email address is fbates30@comcast.net

If there are any other changes, please call Joan or email her to sk8s2@comcast.net

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

As of October 1, 2007, the checking account has a balance of \$2259.62.

***Book Group
Marylou Breidenstine***

Reminder: "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson will be reviewed by Sonia Bertini on THURSDAY, Nov. 15 at the home of Kathy Shippen.

Join us at Celeste Yost's on Saturday, Dec. 15 to talk about Norman Mailer's "The Naked and the Dead". If you would like to see how the opening of "The Naked and the Dead" has inspired a film maker, watch Clint Eastwood's "Flags of Our Fathers". Please call Celeste at 926-3724 if you plan to attend, as she plans to prepare lunch for us.

Looking ahead to January 30, Karen Weiss will review "The Man Who Loved Only Numbers" by Paul Hoffman. Everyone is invited to participate. New people are always welcome.

The Roar of Women - Carol Holmelund, AAUW-NJ Treasurer/Board Delegate to the National Convention

Imagine the sound of 800 women shouting **YES** together, voting with one loud voice to accept — unanimously — the restructuring bylaws changes for AAUW's future lean-and-mean mindset, already begun with the Association's national staff now reduced from 112 to 53, and revenue at \$3.5 million, down from \$6.3 million in 2001. Wow! You shoulda been there!

Of course there will be a transitional period, and more decisions made in coming months by the new and old boards working together. AAUW is reinventing itself in response to concerns about aging and declining membership. Our Phoenix is rising!

Not all the issue votes were unanimous, but all proposals discussed in your *Outlook* passed, with some minor changes, most with large majorities. We're all on one page throughout the country. AAUW and the foundation will combine many assets and activities forming a streamlined group with one set of elected officers. And the "one member, one vote" amendment gives all members a direct voice by mail or email in important national decisions made between conventions. Your individual voices will be heard — you simply have to cast your votes.

Will we change the sometimes unwieldy name of our organization as some rumors have it? Who knows? It is one of those issues that would be voted upon by every member. We heard questions asked about this. At this time there is no answer. Our leaders will make proposals, and we'll vote on them.

Great ideas came from Sherry Schiller, and organizational change guru and AAUW strategic process consultant, who advised us to accept the modified by-laws. She asked us to focus on what we are deeply passionate about. What are we best at in the world? What drives our resources engine? She asked us focus on our VISION, and everything else centers on that, with direct, coordinated, consistent actions leading to that vision. Ask ourselves: What can I and my branch do for the Association's overall purpose? She found that 87% of an AAUW's board time is spent looking at RULES. We need to throw out the rule-books and ask, "Why are we doing this?" And do it.

We must respect one another, avoiding nit-picking and finger-pointing. We need a constructive culture and all must speak up when witnessing non-constructive behavior adopting a bias for the positive.

A panel of women of all ages including one grandma, mom, and daughter trio came up with these ideas, stating more younger women would get involved in AAUW and other women's organizations if:

- We recognize their goals
- We accommodate their communication forms, keep up with methods such as email, blogs, Instant Messaging (IM)
- We go to where they are, such as colleges
- We make them feel important by listening
- We become more tolerant and flexible of others' needs
- We show the ropes — provide mentoring to a new member. Take her to meetings.
- We see one of the biggest barriers to membership is cost. How about sponsoring (paying membership for) a younger member?
- We are completely open and welcoming
- We go into areas where people don't look like us and listen to the needs of that community
- We meet with other groups to "fill up the room" and feel good
- We use college and university women's groups
- We try a science/math project with a local company

We heard a fascinating speaker, author (*Three Cups of Tea*) Greg Mortenson, describe his efforts to build schools, especially for girls, in remote areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan where there were none; believing education is a key antidote to fanaticism. He has constructed over 60 schools where education was non-existent for girls and most boys. An AAUW member, he heartily endorses our work, and quoted an African proverb: "If you educate a boy, you educate an individual. If you educate a girl, you educate a community."

All references to IFUW were stricken from the bylaws with the exception of the provision for international reciprocity, which will remain a courtesy. However, some U.S. States are investigating joining IFUW as a state, and individual membership is available through www.IFUW.org. It costs a lot more per person (about US\$70) than the \$3.00+ that AAUW would have to have paid per US member for all 3 years we're in arrears, but those interested in furthering IFUW's aims can help by joining, or by contributing to the Virginia Gildersleeve Fund or other international groups.

Our Foundation, our local scholarships, our work, all lead to achieving that goal. We can be proud to be part of this group, working to achieve education for women and girls, and enjoying friendship with like-minded, intelligent women in our respected nationwide AAUW.

Source: <http://www.aauwnj.org/gardenstatement.pdf>



NOVEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Book Group	16	17
18	19 AAUW Meeting 7:30pm Good Shepherd Church	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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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