

Happy Spring!

It's a rainy Friday. The ground is warming, the mud is forming, and all around... underground...little beautiful things are making Big Plans!

Aaaahhh...the promise of Spring. How can one not smile???

With the sun soon making a regular appearance, I shall gather in all I can of its warmth. So nice! Vitamin D has definitely been missed...I feel healthier already!!

My hope is that we have lovely springtime weather for the **AAUW Garage Sale** on Saturday, **March 31st** from 8:00 until 2:00. Please remember to bring all of your donations (sellable, workable, non-clothes items) to the Sparta Ambulance Building on Friday, March 30th between 3:00 and 7:00. Also, if you have not signed up to work, please email Mary Hookway (hookmmh@ptd.net) or call Mary (973-729-8083) for times that you can lend a hand.

We have firmed up our **April 21st meeting**, and *wow*, it looks like it will be a winner! Susan Helmstetter has agreed to visit our AAUW-branch and give a 30 - 40 minute demonstration/talk about **chair yoga**. It is a unique approach to yoga that is mild and comfortable. I have been told that one feels wonderful after participating in this pain-free activity. Please mark your calendars so that you can join us for this possibly life-changing program.

Our **May Luncheon** has been scheduled for 11:00 on **Saturday, May 11th** at the Tuscany Bistro ~ Route 206, Newton. We are fortunate to have Ms. Adrienne Lesser as our guest speaker. Adrienne is the AAUW-NJ Public Policy Chairman. She plans to discuss new developments in the Human Trafficking area, in addition to new issues that she is working on for next year. We look forward to meeting her and to hearing her presentation.

Sally Larson has graciously offered to host our first **Annual AAUW Picnic!** Fun, food, and frolics will be in abundance! We have not yet finalized the timeframe, but the date is set: **Saturday, June 9th**. Again ~ Mark you calendar, and be prepared to enjoy the company of your fellow "AAUWers"!

You will note that the Spring Newsletter offers information regarding AAUW's affiliation with the United Nations. I have also included pertinent information about AAUW's proposed disengagement from the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

My Goodness, as I write this newsletter, I realize that I have *almost* survived the year as co-president of this wonderful branch of AAUW. I realize that I have more work to do, that goes without saying! And, of course, my role has certainly been made easier, thanks to our dear Ms. Margaret. However, I certainly am happy that I have opened-up and vice versa with many of our members. We certainly have a fine assortment of ladies in our midst.

I am going to end with a new philosophy that is uplifting to me ~ "I am too blessed to be stressed!" When I am suddenly boggled by something, I close my eyes, breathe deeply, and think of all of my blessings. It suddenly soothes me to a point that I am no longer feeling frantic. (I know, I know ~ I did not do that at the last board meeting, but I am learning!) When you are in that negative-mental-place...give it a try. Begin Spring with a fresh new outlook ~ *I am too blessed to be stressed!*

Enjoy the beauty of the season ~~

Carole and Margaret

AAUW-NJ Highlights

- Raising more than \$100,000 annually for the Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund
- Scholarships awards to New Jersey women
- Advisors to the State Department of Education on gender equity issues and elimination of bias in schools
- Working in coalition on state issues affecting women and girls
- Lobbies for formation and continuance of county commissions on women and for economic equity
- Sponsor of voter registration drives and candidate forums
- Community projects for literacy, pre-school education, child care, nutrition for pregnant teenagers and *Teen Choices*
- Initiating New Jersey legislation like the New Jersey Council on Environmental Quality

Saturday, April 14, 2007: AAUW-NJ Annual Meeting

"Honoring Our Legacy, Embracing Our Future"

The AAUW-NJ will be hosting the Annual State Meeting at Forsgate Country Club, East Windsor, NJ. Registration and continental breakfast will begin at 8:30am. The program will begin promptly at 9:00am. A delicious lunch buffet will also be served.

We are pleased to have Barbara O'Connor, AAUW Educational Foundation President, as our keynote speaker at the meeting. She will be discussing the proposed bylaw changes that have been put forth to the Association membership.

Complete details, including the registration form, are available in the latest issue of [The Garden Statement](#). We are looking forward to a great event and hope you will join us on Saturday, April 14th.

If you plan on staying the night before the meeting, we have set aside 15 rooms at the Crowne Plaza. You will need to contact the hotel directly, using your credit card to reserve but tell them you are with AAUW-NJ. The cut off date to reserve is March 31st.

Crowne Plaza Monroe/Jamesburg
390 Forsgate Drive
Monroe Township, NJ 08831
609-655-4775

From NJ Turnpike North or South :
Exit 8A, after toll, stay left. Go around ramp and make right into hotel parking lot.

Contact: Lucille Webb, AAUW-NJ Program VP
856-935-9124
lwebbaauw@att.net

Work on Global Equity Issues

AAUW has long been committed to promoting equity for women and girls around the world. AAUW awarded its first [International Fellowship](#) in 1917 and in 1919 co-founded the [International Federation of University Women](#), which promotes equity worldwide.

In 1946 IFUW received permanent observer status to the United Nations. Today

- ***AAUW is an active member of [IFUW](#), a network of 180,000 women university graduates from 72 national federations and associations. Among other priorities, IFUW has consultative status with and a voice at the [U.N. Economic and Social Council](#) and sponsors the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme, where AAUW branches support IFUW projects in developing countries.
- At the 2003 AAUW Convention, members created the [International Affairs Committee](#) to lead and inform the membership.
- A [representative to the United Nations](#) supports — according to AAUW's public policy priorities — U.N. programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns.
- The AAUW Educational Foundation awards [International Fellowships](#).
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*****CGM states: AAUW's status with IFUW is in major jeopardy. At the 2007 AAUW National Convention ~ June 29th – July 2, 2007, AAUW is proposing to strike the current bylaw, Article XIX, which states at present, that the Association shall be a constituent dues-paying member of the IFUW and, as such, its members who qualify shall be IFUW members.**

As reported in the Spring/Summer edition of AAUW's *Outlook* in the Special Convention Section C16, and I (CGM) quote:

“AAUW was a founding member of IFUW nearly 90 years ago. In the past 30 years, however, there have been disputes over the high assessment of dues AAUW is expected to pay to IFUW, and recent negotiations have not been successful. For financial reasons, AAUW has been unable to pay its dues for three years, a sum of approximately \$1 million. Because of financial constraints and changing times, the value of IFUW to AAUW has been greatly diminished when compared to the annual dues AAUW is expected to pay. Removing reference to IFUW in the Bylaws still enables AAUW to remain a member until December 31, 2007, albeit not in good standing because of the dues arrearages. The AAUW Board of Directors has complied with the 2005 convention resolution to do everything possible to remain a member of IFUW. AAUW retains a strong commitment to global issues and continues to be a leader in funding for international scholars, to maintain an International Affairs Committee and programming, and to have its own observer at the United Nations.”

I have been told, and I hope that I am correctly stating, that individual AAUW members may still participate in IFUW if the member pays the expected dues to belong to the organization.

This is a heated issue, as one would suppose. Address your attention to www.AAUW.org for more information and/or to the latest issue of the *Outlook*.

At the 2007 Association convention in Phoenix, AAUW members will be voting on a series of proposals and bylaws changes as part of the ongoing AAUW Strategic Process. Find out what the strategic process is all about, what exactly is being proposed and what these changes mean to you.

BE INFORMED!!

Why does AAUW have a representative to the United Nations?

AAUW members have a deep interest in women's issues, locally, nationally, and internationally. AAUW is one of more than 2,500 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with [various U.N. bodies](#), and the representative serves as AAUW's direct liaison.

AAUW's representative attends selected U.N. and nongovernmental organization (NGO) committee meetings and briefings in New York at least once a week to monitor issues about women and girls. The U.N. representative then brings information to AAUW leaders and members, advocating AAUW's support of the U.N. agenda in areas affecting women and girls and stronger U.S. support for the United Nations. The representative often makes arrangements for AAUW members to visit the United Nations for briefings and conferences. Nongovernmental organizations (such as AAUW) provide U.N. member countries with information and advocate specific issues. NGOs have been influential, for instance, in the development of the Land Mine Treaty and the International Criminal Court. NGOs work in committees to

- Set goals for having governments recognize priority issues
- Lobby to influence the wording of U.N. treaties, conventions, and reports
- Work to improve communications between U.N. bodies and the NGO community to strengthen NGOs' role in decision-making
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What issues does AAUW follow at the United Nations?

- Women's/girls' rights
- Poverty and development
- Education, lifelong learning, and higher education
- Women in peacekeeping
- Women and globalization
- Women and the environment, including natural disasters
- HIV/AIDS and health issues
- Trafficking/sexual exploitation
- Early marriage
- Female genital cutting
- Older women
- Impact of national budgets on women's lives
- Gender imbalance in U.N. agencies and on government delegations
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What NGO committees does AAUW's U.N. representative support?

- *Working Group on Girls, part of the NGO Committee of UNICEF:* Co-founded in 1993 by AAUW's U.N. representative Mary Purcell, the working group brings attention to the specific problems of girls' rights and works in coalition to support Section L of the Beijing Platform for Action, the first U.N. outcome document to deal specifically with girls.
- *NGO Committee on the Status of Women:* This committee coordinates advocacy activities on behalf of women and girls and builds ties with women who are serving as ambassadors and in the U.N. secretariat.
- *NGO Education Committee:* This committee brings together education NGOs to focus on formal and informal education to advance the U.N. goal of education for all.

How can I get more involved with the United Nations?

AAUW members and others concerned with advancing U.N. issues can join the United Nations Association of the United States as individuals. (AAUW is a member of the group's Council of Organizations.) [U.N.A-USA](#), part of a network of associations supporting the United Nations around the world, lobbies and serves as a leading center of policy research on the United Nations and global issues. It has 23,000 members nationwide.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Plaintiff Awarded \$4 Million in Sex Discrimination Suit

Los Angeles, CA – An American Association University Women Legal Advocacy Fund-supported plaintiff has received the \$4.07 million jury award from her sex discrimination suit against the Regents of the University of California. The California Supreme Court has chosen not to hear the UC-Regents' appeal.

Janet Conney, a former assistant clinical professor at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital, sued the UC-Regents and UCLA in 2003 for sexual harassment, retaliation for complaining about discrimination, and pay inequity. She also sued three former male colleagues individually for other claims.

“This significant award is an immense victory for Janet Conney and women everywhere who battle sex discrimination in the workplace every day,” said AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Interim Director Lisa Maatz. “As Equal Pay Day approaches next month, AAUW reminds women that sex discrimination still exists at every level, and action must be taken to prevent it.”

In 1998, Conney signed a contract with UCLA for a full-time fellowship position, but three years later, the school denied her the promotion and reassigned her as a part-time employee with a significant pay cut. She later learned that similarly situated male coworkers were paid double or more what she earned, and that they were offered promotions that she was told were unavailable.

Conney says her supervisor was overly critical of her work and made disparaging comments about her to others in the department. She also says that two other male colleagues—physicians at her rank—made suggestive comments to her about her appearance. Little was done by the administration in regards to Conney's complaints about harassment and pay inequity, and in 2002, her contract was terminated.

In addition to the original complaints Conney had against the school, it was discovered during court proceedings that her UCLA department had a secret reserve of money that they used to supplement the salaries of male faculty members only.

“You start to realize that these obstacles loom very large for women – there is a glass ceiling,” Conney said. “Women still bump into a lot of resistance when we try to truly become equal at higher levels.”

During her time at UCLA, Conney was awarded the Hartford Young Investigators Award, designed to support young researchers interested in academic careers in geriatric medicine. She was selected for a coveted fellowship position and was appointed clinical instructor at UCLA. She published an article on treatments for dementia in a peer-reviewed journal – something most researchers don't do until later in their careers. During her residency at UC-Irvine, Conney was Chief Resident and Resident of the Year. Conney continues to practice geriatric psychology at her private practice in West Los Angeles.

“Because women are taking advantage of educational opportunities in record numbers, there is a myth out there that higher education is a place where women have achieved equity,” Maatz said. “Janet’s case, and many others, shows that simply having large numbers of women on campus does not protect them from discrimination in academia or the workplace.”

AAUW has donated more than \$17,000 to Conney’s case to date. The award, which Conney received this week, is one of the largest awarded to an AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund plaintiff.

Read the full case summary of [*Janet Conney v. The Regents of the University of California, et al.*](#)

The **AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund**, a program of the **AAUW Educational Foundation**, is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. It provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

Acts of Kindness

Imagine what would happen if you acted on every single thought of generosity that arises spontaneously in your heart. Would you make someone’s life just a little bit better? Would it make your life better? Try it, and when you run out of your own ideas, try some of these. And notice what happens as a result.

- Donate your professional clothes to an organization that helps people get back into the workforce.
- Give gently worn home furnishings or household appliances to a person or family who might need them or donate them to an organization.
- Take warm clothes, blankets or food to a homeless person that you often cross paths with.
- Donate toys and books to a homeless organization. Toys and books are just as important to kids as food and shelter.
- When shopping, buy a couple extra non-perishable food items and take them to a food drive or pantry.
- Donate age-appropriate learning materials to your local schools.
- Give your gently used books to a local school or organization that can help under-privileged children.
- Spread the joy of reading --read to your grandchildren, friend or neighbor’s child.
- Pick up trash on the playground or around the schoolyard of your local school.
- Rake leaves and pull weeds at your local elementary school.
- Thank the school bus driver for taking your kids safely to school everyday.
- Give blood.
- Go on a walk with friends or neighbors for a little exercise or conversation.
- Assemble and deliver a basket of vegetables or fruit and a few flowers for a homebound person.
- Sew, knit, or crochet comfort items –small quilts, hats, stuffed animals—for the local hospital.
- When visiting a hospital, spend a few minutes with someone who might like a visitor, ask first!
- On your way to the grocery store, ask a homebound or elderly neighbor if there is anything you can pick up for them.
- Accompany a friend to a doctor's appointment if they could use the support.
- Share your favorite healthy recipe with a friend or family member.
- Encourage friends who are trying to quit smoking or other addictive behaviors.
- Take care of yourself first with a healthy diet and activity.