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The Monthly Newsletter of the AAUW - Medford Area Branch

AAUW's Mission

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research

President's Message

Gone so soon--Christmas, New Year's Eve--but so much to look forward to in this new year. Welcome 2010!

I hope you all had an enjoyable time with family and friends during the holiday season. It was a pleasure dining with those members who came to Zinc Cafe on December 8. Robin presented us with another delicious meal, giving us time to share a drink and catch up with friends. Dian Hattrick is grateful for the donations made to "Girls Matter." Thank you all for your contributions to this cause. And many thanks to Dian and Pat for organizing the event!

January's program will be very interesting. Cathi Rendfrey, the director of the Women's Opportunity Center (WOC), will be our guest speaker. "The WOC is a grant-funded program made possible by the New Jersey Division on Women, Department of Community Affairs that supports displaced homemakers – women who have lost their primary source of income due to divorce, separation, death, disability of a spouse, or a spouse who has been deployed in the military – and who must therefore obtain or upgrade their skills for transition into the paid labor market. WOC provides a broad spectrum of holistic and comprehensive free services that include counseling, support groups, life skills workshops, referrals, education, and training to help these women locate meaningful employment and become self-sufficient." (Source: www.burlingtoncountywomanonline.com, 4/09) We look forward to learning about the services her organization provides and the success stories of area women. Given her many contacts, she may be able to suggest worthy candidates for our annual AAUW scholarship.

Lynne

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 pm

AAUW Medford Board Meeting
Cranberry Hall, Medford

Tuesday, January 12, 7:30 pm

Speaker Cathi Rendfrey, Women's
Opportunity Center
Cranberry Hall, Medford

Tuesday, January 19, 7:30 pm

Lit Group - "**The Elegance of the Hedgehog**" by Muriel Barbery
Lynne Poag's Home

Programs

As we start a New Year, many of us are vowing to do more or to engage in meaningful acts. Please join us on January 12 at 7:30 to listen to a local woman who is engaged in helping other women in Burlington County to improve their lives. Our speaker that night will be Cathi Rendfrey of the Women's Opportunity Center. She will talk about the needs of displaced women and the ways in which the Center meets these needs and she will reflect on the important role the Center plays in our community.

Pat Kalata, Dian Hattrick

Occasions

We wish a happy birthday to Kitty Hartshorn and Betsy Cella in January. Also, a Bon Voyage to Mary Strickler on her world cruise.

If you know of anyone who is ill or has an event that we should remember with a greeting card, please let Lynne or Nancy know. And please let us know if you are not yet on our Birthday list....month and day of your special day.

Nancy Sauer

Scholarship



Wish Upon A Star



The entrance was quiet and elegant prior to the start of the November gala

Gala results are in. After expenses we raised \$3400 for the AAUW Medford Scholarship Fund!

The scholarships will go to non-traditional female students who are in college now or want to return to college. These women could be older or they might have left college at some point for other responsibilities and now want to return for a degree. This year's scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded in the spring of 2010.



Guests and residents enjoyed food, drink, music and conversation at the beautiful facilities at CareOne at Evesham Assisted Living.

Many thanks to our patrons for their generous contributions to our Program, Silent Auction, Baskets and Raffle & Door Prize donations. Please be sure to mention our Gala when using their business services.

Picture Highlights



The Silent Auction table displayed a selection of the lovely donations from patrons



Branch President Lynne Poag addresses the crowd to open the 2009 Gala.



The buffet table held delicious selections for everyone





Committee members Connie Masington (chairperson), Kitty Hartshorn, Rita Manno, Mary Ann Brookes, Mary Strickler and Sylvia Somers at the Gala – picture was also published in the December 16-23 Medford Sun

If you didn't have the opportunity to join us, you missed a great evening. Please contact Connie Masington if you would like a copy of the program with its stories of Stars awarded and patron donations.

Connie Masington
Scholarship Chairperson

Scholarship Application Coming Soon

We're getting the scholarship application ready and we should be able to give it out to members at our January meeting. Please think about where you might be able to post the application -- a store, the post office, a high school, a financial aid office in a college, an arts organization in town, a development association newsletter or anywhere else where people will see it and maybe think of someone who might want to apply. We absolutely need a lot of people to apply for the \$1,000. If we get a good response this year, then people will look forward to seeing the application every year. I know it requires some shoe leather and some over active brain cells but I know we can really do it.

Rita Manno

Kudos for Thank You Notes

I've heard from several people about the wonderful thank you notes that AAUW sent out to all those who donated prizes for our Gala and placed ads in our program booklet. A great thank you note goes a long way in making people feel we appreciate their donation. (Besides, we'll be back next year to ask again, right?). So kudos to Sylvia for the thank you notes. If anyone else was writing them, then thanks to them too.

Rita Manno

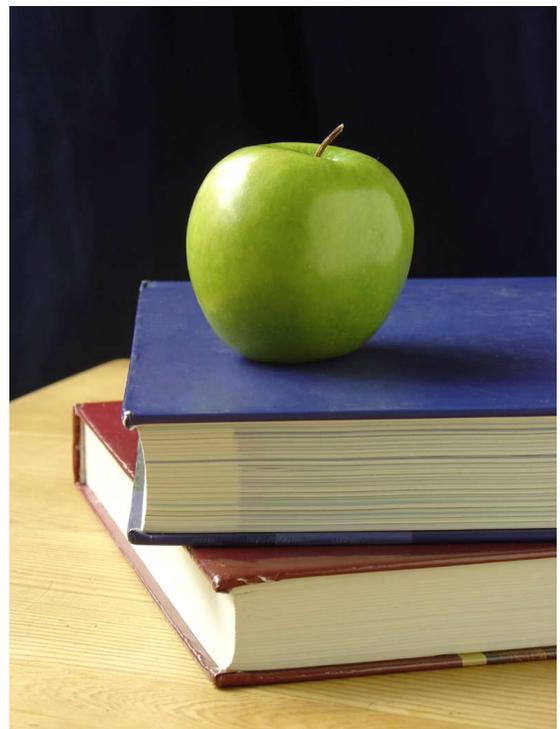
Lit Group

January's book selection is "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery.

In this supple novel of ideas, a best-seller in France, the unschooled middle-aged concierge of an upper-class Paris apartment building acts like a stereotypical concierge, leaving the television on all day and sharing her quarters with an old, fat cat, but she secretly consumes vast quantities of literature. A few floors above her, the brilliant and prematurely disillusioned twelve-year-old daughter of a "holier-than-thou-left-wing-intellectual" family is planning arson and suicide, unless she can find something worth living for beyond the "vacuousness of bourgeois existence." Unbeknown to each other, the two autodidacts share an allergy to grammatical errors (the concierge considers a misplaced comma an "underhanded attack") and a love of tea and moments of ineffable beauty. Barbery's sly wit, which bestows lightness on the most ponderous cogitations, keeps her tale aloft. (From New Yorker Magazine).

Our meeting will be held on January 19th at 7:30 PM at Lynne Poag's home in Shamong. Please call Lynne at 609-268-7034 if you need directions.

Evelyn Goldner





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