



# PINELINES



***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

If you missed hearing Cathi Rendfrey speak about her work at the Women's Opportunity Center, you missed a passionate presentation. Cathi is the lifeblood of this small but mighty organization housed at the Burlington County YMCA. She and her small staff and volunteers help women who are overwhelmed with life's problems and decisions. Divorce, death of a spouse, job loss, housing problems, and educational needs are some of the issues facing the women who visit her facility. During the discussion period, our members encouraged her to inform her clients of the application process for our AAUW scholarship. This is one of the ways we may be able to assist women in need.

Most of our branch officers are nearing the end of their respective terms, and it's time for all members to consider which position they would be willing to assume. In order to keep moving forward, all organizations need fresh ideas and new people to implement these ideas. Please give serious thought to how you can help our AAUW branch grow and be ready to volunteer your services when our informal process of choosing new officers occurs in the near future.

This month we look forward to hearing from one of our members, Mary Switzer. I hope you'll be able to attend our next meeting on February 9th at 7:30 pm.

Lynne

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, February 9, 7:30 pm**

Speaker Mary Switzer  
AAUW National & State Activities  
Cranberry Hall, Medford

**Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 pm**

Lit Group - Olive Kitteridge by  
Elizabeth Stout  
Cranberry Hall, Medford

**Thursday, March 11, 2010 (12:00-2:00 pm)**

Author Luncheon with LISE  
FUNDERBURG  
*Sponsored by the MAC (Medford Arts Center)*  
Braddock's Tavern  
39 South Main Street, Medford, NJ

## Programs

The February meeting topic is one that is of concern to all of us: what does AAUW do with all that money we send in? Mary Switzer, a long time member of the AAUW branch and a very active member at the state level will give us an overview of what AAUW does for women at the national and state level and what the organization can do for us.

Be sure to join us at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 9 for Mary's insights and what promises to be a lively discussion.

*Pat Kalata, Dian Hatrick*

## Occasions

We wish a Happy February Birthday to Tina Wetterau on the 8th.

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 date of your special day.

*Nancy Sauer*

## Lit Group

Our book for February is [Olive Kitteridge](#) by Elizabeth Stout. This book was the 2009 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. It is told in 13 linked tales and presents a heart-wrenching, penetrating portrait of ordinary coastal Mainers living lives of quiet grief intermingled with flashes of human connection. Olive Kitteridge is the central character and provides the link for all the stories. The collection is easy to read and hard to forget.

I hope you can join us on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at Cranberry Hall to discuss this interesting and topical book.

*Evelyn Goldner*

## Literary Event

The MAC (Medford Arts Center) is sponsoring an Author Luncheon with Award Winning Writer Lise Funderburg, author of *Pig Candy...A Memoir*, *Taking My Father South*, *Taking My Father Home*. The event will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010, from 12:00-2:00 pm, at Braddock's Tavern, 39 South Main Street, Medford, NJ.

Books will be available for purchase and signing by the author. For more information about the author, please check her website at <http://www.lisefunderburg.com>. The cost of \$25 for MAC members (\$30 Non-members) includes a complete luncheon. (Cash Wine Bar will be

available). Payment must be received by March 1, 2010. For registration information, please see the website [www.Artsinmedford.org](http://www.Artsinmedford.org) or call Elsa at 609-953-0805.

## Public Policy

### Supreme Court Issues Ruling on Campaign Funding

In a special session Thursday, the Supreme Court issued a 5-4 ruling in the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* campaign finance case. According to the [New York Times](#), the Court ruled that the government cannot impose spending limits on corporations, labor unions, or special interest groups in candidate elections. Overruling two previous decisions, the majority of the Court felt that the decision reinstated the First Amendment rights of such organizations. Opponents of the ruling, however, expressed concern that the ruling would open the flood gates to special interest money, and therefore power, in elections. President Obama issued a [statement](#), calling the decision "a green light to a new stampede of special interest money in our politics." Democrats vowed to pass new legislation to put new spending limits into place.

### Spike in Women Ambassadors Dubbed "Hillary Effect"

The Washington Post published an [article](#) recently on "the Hillary effect," noting the 25 female ambassadors in Washington as the highest number of women in history representing their countries in the United States. While women remain a clear minority of the 182 total ambassadors in Washington, their numbers have quintupled since the late 1990s.

Many observers link the increase in the number of female ambassadors posted to the increasingly high profile and success of America's own female diplomats such as Secretaries of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Condoleeza Rice and Madeline Albright.

*Lynne*

## 2009 – 2010 Executive Board

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Lynne Poag

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### Scholarships

Connie Masington

### Literature Group

Evelyn Goldner

### Hospitality

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Mary Ann Brookes

## Scholarship

The application for our 2010 scholarship was distributed to members in January, and several responses have already been received.

This year the amount has been doubled to \$1,000 to be awarded to a non-traditional female college student. Applications will be accepted through March 15, 2010. The scholarship, intended to help ease the burden of college expenses for the recipient, will be awarded in May, 2010.

The specifics follow and the application form itself is on the next page.

### Eligibility

To be eligible, the applicant must:

1. Be a resident of Burlington County, NJ.
2. Be a non-traditional female student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program. A non-traditional student might be someone whose family obligations required an interruption of several years prior to resuming a college program, or someone who waited until later in life to start college. High school graduates proceeding directly to college are ineligible.
3. Take at least one course per semester.
4. Earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 if already enrolled.

### Application Process

1. Complete and sign the application form.
2. Submit a typed, double-spaced essay of approximately 500 words describing your quest for a college education and how it has taken a non-traditional route. Explain how this scholarship will help you achieve your goals.
3. Provide your most recent official school transcript regardless of age.
4. Provide a letter of recommendation from a professional (employer, professor, pastor, etc.) who can speak to your character, qualities, and career aspirations. **The letter must be typed, signed and dated** and include the name, title, address, phone number, and the relationship to the applicant of the person making the recommendation. (This is a very important part of the application since it will give the AAUW Scholarship Committee a clear sense of your character and resolve.)
5. Send the application and other documents in a single package by March 15, 2010.

Please circulate this information to anyone who may be eligible and interested.



AAUW  
Medford Area

## Scholarship Application

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

- Completed Application
- Proof of Burlington County residence
- Proof of enrollment in at least one course per semester
- Copy of most recent college transcript regardless of age
- Proof of 3.0 Cumulative GPA if already enrolled
- Personal Essay
- Letter of Recommendation

