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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

Predictably, February can be a dicey month for meetings, and this one was no exception. Dian and Pat have rescheduled Mary Switzer's presentation on AAUW's national role for April so we won't miss out on her information. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for this snow to melt and warmer weather to prevail!

March is Women's History Month. Thanks to a proclamation by President Carter in 1980, our "fair sex" was honored with a week dedicated to our accomplishments. After more successful lobbying by women's organizations, Congress expanded the week to National Women's History Month in 1987. A little research on the [National Women's History Project](#) provides the following information.

"The overarching theme for 2010 and our 30th Anniversary celebration is Writing Women Back into History. It often seems that the history of women is written in invisible ink. Even when recognized in their own times, women are frequently left out of the history books.

When we began our work in the early eighties, the topic of women's history was limited to college curricula, and even there it languished. At that time, less than 3% of the content of teacher training textbooks mentioned the contributions of women and when included, women were usually written in as mere footnotes. Women of color and women in fields such as math, science, and art were completely omitted. This limited inclusion of women's accomplishments deprived students of viable female role models.

Today, when you search the Internet with the words "women's +history + month," you'll find more than 40,500,000 citations. These extraordinary numbers give testimony to the tireless work of thousands of

individuals, organizations, and institutions to write women back into history."

Isn't it a shame that this great effort is necessary!

A friend sent me an [article](#) from the New York Times that speaks to one of the causes of this problem. The Texas state board of education is the largest buyer of school textbooks in the country so book publishers often acquiesce to their demands. Recently, over a hundred petitioners hoping for a say in what would be included in the Texas state curriculum guidelines had three minutes to make their case before the 15-member state board of education.

"Following the appeals from the public, the members of what is the most influential state board of education in the country, and one of the most politically conservative, submitted their own proposed changes to the new social-studies curriculum guidelines, whose adoption was the subject of all the attention — guidelines that will affect students around the country, from [kindergarten](#) to 12th grade, for the next 10 years." Margaret Sanger, the woman who pioneered birth control, was not included because she "and her followers promoted eugenics." Ted Kennedy also was not included. History is being rewritten by political ideology, but I suppose that has always been the case. Note: HIS-tory v HER-story!

Getting back to the National Women's History Project, another page on the website lets you "[Test Your Knowledge](#)" of notable women.

The following is one of my favorites--oh, the irony of it all!

What woman was invited to teach nuclear physics at Princeton University, even though no female students were allowed to study there? [Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997)].

I look forward to seeing you at our March 9th meeting at Cranberry Hall where our speaker will tell us about notable women of Burlington County.

Lynne

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 pm

Speaker Judy Olsen
Local Women's History
Cranberry Hall, Medford

Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 pm

Lit Group - Guernsey Literary and
Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann
Shaffer and Annie Barrows
Home of Linda Fanelle, Mt. Laurel

Programs

In celebration of March as Women's History month, Judy Olsen, a historian of Burlington County, will share facts and information about local women. Join us for an eye opening presentation on March 9 at 7:30 at Cranberry Hall in Medford.

Pat Kalata, Dian Hattrick

Lit Group

Our book selection for March is *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, written by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. It is January 1946 and London is emerging from the shadow of World War II. Writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject and she finds it in a letter from a man she's never met. The man is a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb. As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends.

I hope you can join us on March 16th at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the home Linda Fanelle in Mount Laurel. Please call Linda or me if you have any questions or would like directions.

Evelyn Goldner

Occasions

March Happy Birthday wishes go to Lois Kling on the 16th and June Ramondetta on the 23rd.

Happy Birthday, Ladies!

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

Public Policy

Sports Yield Long-Term Results for Girls, Women

Reports released this week solidify the [need for Title IX](#) and girl's athletic programs, proving that participation at a young age directly correlates to increased health, education and employment later in life. One study by Dr. Betsy Stevenson finds that since the inception of Title IX, there has been a 20 percent education increase and a 40 percent employment increase in women 25-34 years old. Data by Dr. Robert Kaestner also correlates playing sports as a child with a seven percent decrease in obesity, as well as diabetes and other severe health risks, for women in their 30s and 40s. This information comes simultaneously with First Lady Michelle Obama's [Campaign to Improve School Children's Health](#), which aims to eliminate childhood obesity in the next ten years.

AAUW believes that expansion of athletic opportunities for girls and women must continue at both the high school and college levels, because it is important not only for the participants themselves but for the benefit of the greater community as well. We remain strongly committed to preserving the protections of Title IX and advocate its strong enforcement. AAUW also continues efforts to educate the public about the impact of this landmark civil rights law, and the benefits for the community and the nation when it is implemented appropriately.

Lynne

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Scholarship

There's still time to distribute the application to additional candidates for this year's scholarship.

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, to Connie Masington, 35 Coventry Circle East, Marlton, NJ 08053.

For additional information, please contact Connie Masington via telephone at (609) 330-8169 or email at connie.masington@verizon.net.

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

