



# 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

Welcome Spring! It's so refreshing to see flowers and trees bursting into bloom. And just as spring brings regeneration to the earth so, too, does this time of year usher in new officers for our organization. I was so pleased last month to watch members volunteer for positions within our branch. Many thanks to all of you who stepped up for these duties.

Here is the list of those who will be leading us in the next two-year cycle:

**President**--Mary Ann Brookes  
**Membership**--Connie Masington  
**Programs**--Dian Hattrick and Lynne Poag  
**Treasurer**--June Ramondetta  
**Secretary**--Tricia Reace  
**Lit Group**--Bea Chawla and Rose Mary Bland  
**Public Relations**--Rita Manno  
**Newsletter Editor**--Mary Ann Brookes  
**Public Policy**--Lynne Poag  
**Scholarship**--Connie Masington  
**Hospitality**--Rotating Members (every month one or more of us will be responsible for refreshments)

**Save the Date:** Rose Mary Bland has scheduled our Installation Dinner for Tuesday, May 11, at Femmina Italian Grill on Stokes Road. Look for more information in the next newsletter. We hope all of you will be able to attend and welcome our new officers.

I received a letter from Linda Hallman at national, thanking us for our \$150 contribution to AAUW Funds. Our Acme receipts collection made this donation possible.

A special thank you goes out to our Scholarship Committee, headed by Connie Masington. We had 16 applicants this year! Thanks, Rita, for the successful public relations campaign of getting the word out through the newspapers and to all members who passed the information to friends & family members. I'm looking forward to the report about how the committee processed all the information and their announcement of the recipient.

See you in April. Mary Switzer will be our speaker.  
*Lynne*

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 pm**

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

**Please bring your used books to sell!**

**Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 pm**

Lit Group - The Last Lecture by  
 Randy Pausch  
 Home of Sylvia Somers, Marlton

**Tuesday, May 11**

Officer Installation Dinner  
 Femmina Italian Grill, Medford

## Scholarship

We received 16 applications for this year's scholarship award. Four did not meet the eligibility criteria, so we had 12 from which to select a winner. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter.

Meanwhile, we are already planning to make our next scholarship event even more spectacular. We hope that many of you will pitch in to help make it a smashing success. Look for more on this at the next few meetings.

## Lit Group

Our book for April is "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch. When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University was asked to give a "last lecture," he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. The lecture he gave – "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams" – wasn't about dying, it was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, or seizing every moment. Randy Pausch has combined humor, inspiration and intelligence and his lecture was a phenomenon on the internet.

This book was chosen by Shawnee High School as their "one book, one school" summer read, and I hope you will find it inspirational. It is only available in hardback, however, the Burlington County Library has numerous copies and there is no waiting list for it.

Our meeting will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the home of Sylvia Somers in Marlton. If you have any questions, or would like directions, please call Sylvia or me. Hope to see you on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Evelyn Goldner*

## Public Policy

### Health Insurance Reform Passes

Hailing the moment as a "new season in America," President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590) into law on Tuesday, March 23. The bill reached the president's desk following House passage of the legislation Sunday evening; the Senate had passed the bill in December of 2009. Both the House and Senate passed an additional reconciliation measure (H.R. 4872) this week providing a number of 'fixes' to the underlying legislation.

AAUW is pleased that the new law significantly restricts the practice of gender rating - the process by which insurance companies charge women higher premiums than men for the same coverage, solely on the basis of gender - which will be prohibited in both the individual and small

group markets (employers with 100 or fewer employees). The law also requires insurance companies to cover additional preventative health care and screenings for women - such as mammograms and pap smears - at no additional premium or co-payment cost.

Moreover, AAUW is particularly pleased that many of the provisions of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) were included in the reconciliation package. All student loans will now originate with the federal government's direct lending program, ending the practice of private lenders receiving federal subsidies. The savings from this policy shift, estimated at \$61 billion over 10 years, will be used to increase Pell grants, strengthen the Income-Based Repayment program, and provide funding for job training at community colleges.

*Lynne*

## 2009 – 2010 Executive Board

### President

Lynne Poag

### VP Membership

Lila Cleaver

### VP Programs

Dian Hattrick

Pat Kalata

### Treasurer

Bea Chawla

### Secretary

Nancy Sauer

### Public Policy

Lynne Poag

### Legal Advocacy Fund

Tina Wetterau

### Scholarships

Connie Masington

### Literature Group

Evelyn Goldner

### Hospitality

Rose Mary Bland

### Public Relations

Rita Manno

### Newsletter Coordinator

Mary Ann Brookes

## Programs

The April meeting topic, postponed from our snowed-out February meeting, 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, April 13 for Mary's insights and what promises to be a lively discussion.

*Pat Kalata, Dian Hatrick*

## Occasions

Happy Birthday wishes go to Rose Mary Bland on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April.

Happy Birthday, Rose Mary!

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*



## 2010 Dues

I am happy to report that our state and national dues are staying the same as last year. Our annual dues will remain at \$65.00 (\$49 for national, \$10 for state and \$6 for our local branch). Since national and state dues are actually due in July, when we are no longer seeing one another at meetings, it becomes very difficult to collect from everyone in time. As a result, we have decided to make it easier on everyone and start collecting dues now for next year. You will be able to pay at meetings, which will save postage for you as well as the branch. I will be available at the April and May meetings to take your payment. Just bring the form in with your check. Of course, if you prefer to mail in your payment, you can send it to me at the following address:

Mrs. Bea Chawla, 104 Landing Street, Vincentown, NJ 08088

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_\_ (Day and month only)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you are a life member: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a dual member with another branch, please indicate the branch name: \_\_\_\_\_

**AAUW Member Survey**

**Name (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

AAUW Medford Area has changed composition over the past few years and is interested in ensuring that its members' and prospective members' interests are being met.

**1. Please rank, from 1-8, the importance to you of the following (1 being most important):**

- \_\_\_ Ability to hear interesting speakers at meetings
- \_\_\_ Raising money for scholarships
- \_\_\_ Opportunity to socialize with interesting women
- \_\_\_ Ability to support the AAUW mission
- \_\_\_ Opportunity for stimulating discussion
- \_\_\_ Chance to get out of the house
- \_\_\_ Opportunity to volunteer my services
- \_\_\_ Other - Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Please rate your agreement with the following statements (rate 1-5 with 1 meaning strong agreement, 5 meaning strong disagreement):**

- The current level of activity is good \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to see more social activities \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to add activities / speakers to promote professional knowledge / skills \_\_\_\_\_
- We should have fewer meetings – every other month instead of every month \_\_\_\_\_
- We should try to increase our membership numbers \_\_\_\_\_
- The current membership size of approximately 38 is good \_\_\_\_\_
- The branch should attempt to attract younger members \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to see us add other subgroups \_\_\_\_\_
- Suggestions for other subgroups: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other suggestions for activities or speakers: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. If the branch were to establish a website, what functions / information should the site contain? (Please rate 1-5 your level of agreement with each item, with 1 meaning strong agreement, 5 meaning strong disagreement)**

- Organization overview / mission \_\_\_\_\_
- Event calendar / Meeting schedule \_\_\_\_\_
- Member profiles / directory (secured by password) \_\_\_\_\_
- Newsletters \_\_\_\_\_
- Current program status (e.g. scholarship gala) \_\_\_\_\_
- Scholarship program guidelines and application \_\_\_\_\_
- We don't need a website \_\_\_\_\_
- Other suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Any other comments or suggestions:** \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your input! Please bring your completed survey to the next meeting or mail to:  
Mary Ann Brookes, 38 Red Oak Trail, Medford, NJ 08055

