



PINELINES



The Monthly Newsletter of the AAUW - Medford Area Branch

www.aauwmedfordnj.com

AAUW's Mission

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

President's Message

I don't know if this season can match the recent excitement – an earthquake, a hurricane and tornado watch in one week! I hope everyone remains unscathed. We can compare notes over tea at our opening meeting on September 13.

As usual, Lynne and Dian have put together a line-up of interesting and informative programs for the year. Likewise, Bea and Rose Mary have provided an intriguing selection of books for this year's Lit Group, starting off with the incredible account of Jaycee Dugard's experience in *A Stolen Life*.

Our Scholarship Fund is starting the year with a big head start, and plans for another book & author brunch. Please see Mary Strickler's article for the details.

On a sad note, we say farewell to Sylvia Somers, who has decided to apply her time to other interests. We thank her for all the wonderful effort she has contributed to the branch over the years.

As a result of Sylvia's leaving, we are in need of a Membership VP. Please let me know if you are interested in filling the post. I will bring a role description to the meeting for anyone who is interested.

I hope to see many of you, along with your guests, on September 13 at Cranberry Hall.

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, September 13, 7:30
Annual Membership Tea
Cranberry Hall, Medford

Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 pm
Lit Group – *A Stolen Life* by Jaycee Dugard
Home of Bea Chawla

Occasions

Welcome to another year of at AAUW Medford. I hope you all had a wonderful summer, the earthquake and hurricane (impending as I write this) notwithstanding.

Birthday greetings

Again this year, we would like to acknowledge members birthdays, so if you haven't shared yours yet, please send it along. And please continue to let me or Mary Ann know if any members need a note of encouragement, a card of thanks, congratulations.

Please join me in wishing Rita Manno a happy birthday on the 11th.

If you know of a member who is celebrating an event or needs words of encouragement, or a word of thanks, please let Mary Ann or Tricia know so we can send a note or card.

Also, we'd like to include everyone on our birthday list, so please drop a note to either of us.

Tricia Reace

Also, please wish a happy birthday to Tricia on September 26!

Mary Ann Brookes

Lit Group

As always, there were many wonderful books to choose from this year and it was very difficult to select only nine. Hopefully everyone will find a number of books on the list to be of interest.

The first meeting of the lit group season will take place at the home of Bea Chawla on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:30 pm. The book that has been selected for discussion is *A Stolen Life* by Jaycee Dugard. Told in her own words, without the help of a ghostwriter, the book is "brave, dignified and painstakingly honest." It should make for a very engrossing discussion and we look forward to seeing all of our regulars and hopefully some newcomers to the group!

The books selected for 2011 - 2012 are:

September - *A Stolen Life* by Jaycee Dugard

October - *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson

November - *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan

December - *Mrs. Mike* by Benedict and Nancy Freedman

January - *Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West* by Dorothy Wickenden

February - *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett

March - *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand

April - *The 13th Tale* by Diane Setterfield

May - *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* by Michael Sandel

Bea Chawla and Rose Mary Bland

Note from the Treasurer's Desk

If you haven't already done so, please send your dues payment or bring it to the meeting. Thanks!

June

Programs

We have assembled varied and, we hope, interesting programs for our membership. Please invite friends to our meetings and try to attend as many as you can. Last year our numbers were embarrassingly low at a couple of gatherings.

Below is a list of the 2011-12 programs.

September 13--Annual Membership Tea

October 11--*Dr. James Garnett*, professor of public policy at Rutgers-Camden

Theme: *Government credibility and public confidence in government*

November 8--*Lorraine Rocco*, author, member of AAUW Medford Area Branch

Theme: *The Writing Process*

December 13--Holiday Party

January 10--*Margaret Riccardelli*, Silk Road Lectures LLC, member of AAUW Medford Area Branch

Theme: *Inside an American Embassy--Bangladesh*

February 11--Book and Author Luncheon; this event will replace our general meeting on Feb. 14

March 13--*Joan Slavin*, actress, member of AAUW Medford Area Branch

Theme: *WWII Love Letters and the Making of a Play*

April 10--*Victoria Chase, Esq.*, clinical associate professor and chairperson of clinical law programs at Rutgers School of Law—Camden

Theme: *NJ Domestic Violence Law*

May 8--Installation Dinner

Hospitality

I will pass a sign-up sheet around at the September meeting asking for three members to take care of the refreshments for each month. This committee will be responsible for bringing in finger foods and will be expected to come in early (preferably by 6:45 PM) to make coffee, hot water, and set up the tables. In this way, everything will be organized and ready when guests and members start coming to the meeting. The committee will also be expected to clean up and leave the center in good condition.

I will remind those of you who have signed up for the month that it is your turn. (If we do not get enough volunteers, I may have to assign a month to you, which means you will not get a month of your choice.) We have enough members that no one should have to do this more than once a year.

It is important to note that the supplies that are in the kitchen at the center are purchased by the seniors and should not be used by us. We are fortunate to be able to rent the center at an extremely reasonable cost and we are expected to buy our own supplies. I will keep inventory of the basic items needed monthly like coffee, tea and paper products and pass on the information.

This should help things run smoothly and spread the effort in a fair way. If you already know when you would like to bring refreshments in, please feel free to email me and I will be more than happy to sign you up now.

Bea Chawla

Scholarship & Fundraising

In spite of the fact that our Riversharks game was rained out, we earned \$55 for the tickets we sold. If you still have your ticket(s), they may each be exchanged at the Riversharks box office for any two of the remaining games of the Riversharks season. And the team is now in second place in the Atlantic League so those remaining games should be very exciting.

As many of you may know, we finished last season having raised just under \$1500, which had been our goal. Below are the details.

Thanks to a wonderfully generous donation from Mr. Earl Marks, of RBC Wealth Management, another from Karen Wisdom, of Raymond James Financial Services, and the dollars earned from our Riversharks outing, we are starting this year with \$1155 already in hand!

Our goal for this season is to earn enough to supplement that gift with enough new money to be able to award two scholarships next spring. Toward that end we have begun planning another Book and Author brunch. The date has been chosen, February 11th, and the venue will again be Medford Leas. Our author has also been selected and I know you will all be delighted to know that she is June Ramondetta's daughter, Dr. Lois Ramondetta. In subsequent newsletters, I will tell you a bit more about her and her book.

We are also hoping to hold a book sale. This is tentatively set for October 15th with a table at the Medford Farmers' Market. Stay tuned for final details on this, and start combing your bookcases for books you are willing to donate. You may bring them to the regular meetings in September and October. If for some reason we cannot manage that October 15th event, we will do it later in the season, and I will store the books until that time.

Scholarship income for 2010-2011:

Dining at Panera Bread	\$100
Macy's Shop for a Cause	\$208
Shopping at Coldwater Creek	\$358
Book and Author Brunch	\$819

TOTAL **\$1,455**

Thank you, everybody!

Mary Strickler



Public Policy

Note to members of Medford Area AAUW Branch: All past and present articles in this column are the expressed views of AAUW National. They are drawn directly from AAUW Washington Update, the national on-line newsletter.

Women Value College, Question Affordability

Women value higher education more than men do and see it as having a greater impact on their lives, according to a Pew Research Center survey done in March. However, female respondents were also more likely to be concerned with the rising cost of college. Fourteen percent of female college graduates said college was affordable for most people today, as compared to one-quarter of men.

AAUW believes ensuring and increasing access to higher education is imperative to helping women obtain financial security and economic independence. AAUW places particular importance on access to higher education for nontraditional students, ensuring students can stay in school to complete a degree, and increasing financial aid. Because women are more likely to borrow money for college than men and will earn less on average after graduation, female graduates are more likely to struggle with their loan debt.

Lynne Poag

2010/11 Executive Board

President

Mary Ann Brookes

VP Membership

To be filled

VP Programs

Dian Hattrick

Lynne Poag

Treasurer

June Ramondetta

Secretary

Tricia Reace

Public Policy

Lynne Poag

Legal Advocacy Fund

Tina Wetterau

Scholarships

Mary Strickler

Literature Group

Rose Mary Bland

Bea Chawla

Hospitality

Bea Chawla

Public Relations

Rita Manno

Newsletter Coordinator

Mary Ann Brookes

**AAUW-Medford Area Branch
Membership Roster
September 2011**



*The **American Association of University Women** promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.*

*The **AAUW Educational Foundation** provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.*

*The **AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.*



 AAUW

The logo for the American Association of University Women (AAUW), consisting of a stylized inverted triangle made of horizontal lines of varying lengths, followed by the letters "AAUW" in a serif font.

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