



The Monthly Newsletter of the AAUW - Medford Area Branch

<http://medford-nj.aauw.net/>

AAUW's Mission

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

President's Message

Happy New Year! As we usher in the year 2012 (Wow!), we look forward to some great activities for our branch. Our Book and Author Brunch is scheduled for February and the Running and Winning Workshop is planned for April. Stay tuned for more information on both programs and how you can be involved.

We missed some regulars at this year's holiday party, but it still turned out to be lots of fun and MaraVilla's served some wonderful dishes! Thanks to Lynne and Dian for arranging the evening.

Travel to Bangladesh at our next meeting with speaker Margaret Riccardelli. I'm sure we will have a fascinating view of life in a land far away and very different from our own. Along similar lines, the Lit Group's book this month is about another type of culture clash.

Once again, the officer and chair role descriptions are included in this newsletter for your review. Please take a minute to see which role you might want to fill for the next term. Your participation, and diversity of ideas, are important to keep our branch active and our members stimulated. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

As Time Magazine named "the protester" the most influential person of 2011, saying that protesters in countries around the globe "changed the world," we are reminded to do our small part to help advance equity for women and girls. Let's do what we can to make 2012 a great year.

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 pm

General Meeting – Speaker Margaret Riccardelli
Theme: Inside an American Embassy-- Bangladesh
Cranberry Hall, Medford, NJ

Tuesday, January 17, 7:30 pm

Lit Group – Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West by Dorothy Wickenden
Home of Mary Ann Brookes

Saturday, February 11, 11:30 am

Book & Author Champagne Brunch
Medford Leas, Medford, NJ

Occasions

Birthday wishes in January go out to Betsy Cella on the 10th and Mary Strickler on the 22nd.

Happy Birthday, Betsy and Mary!

We were sorry that Joan Slavin was unable to join us as planned for the Holiday dinner. Unfortunately, she was the victim of a "fender bender" that morning. Joan was, we understand "just" shaken up, although her car was not quite so fortunate.

If you haven't shared your birthday yet, please send it along so we can celebrate you, too.

And please continue to let me or Mary Ann know if any members need a note of encouragement, a card of thanks, congratulations.

Tricia Reace

Programs

Happy New Year, everyone!

We'll start off our 2012 program year on January 10th with a new cultural/travel/educational experience offered by our member, **Margaret Riccardelli**! Her topic is "Inside an American Embassy--Bangladesh." Margaret will educate us about the work of an American Embassy in the developing country of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is surrounded by India with the exception of its tiny southeastern border with Myanmar. Formerly known as East Pakistan, the country ceded from its alliance with West Pakistan in 1971 and became Bangladesh. An extremely poor Muslim country, Bangladesh contends with annual floods that inundate about a third of the country during the monsoon season. This annual flooding hampers economic growth.

Despite its small size, it has the 7th largest population in the world, 95% of whom are under the age of 64. The median age is 23.3. In comparison, the US median age is 36.9 with 67% under the age of 64.

We hope you can join us for this interesting program and be a part of the lively discussion that Margaret will lead.

Lynne Poag and Dian Hatrick

Heard from AAUW Washington Update

Congressional Holiday Spirit Crosses the Aisle

More than half of the U.S. Senate [reached](#) across the aisle this week to spread holiday cheer, participating in the first ever "Senate Secret Santa." Initiated by Senator Al Franken (D-MN), the exchange of \$10 gifts to be exchanged between senators of different parties was [aimed](#) at helping members of Congress briefly set aside partisanship in favor of the holiday spirit.

Lit Group

Our January book, *Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West* by Dorothy Wickenden, continues the December theme of young women venturing courageously out into an unfamiliar world. In *Nothing Daunted*, two recent graduates of Smith College travel to the still untamed West to teach the children of homesteaders in northwestern Colorado. The novel provides a "brightly painted mural of America under construction a century ago," and tells the tale of two privileged young ladies who "were nothing daunted and everything enthusiastic."

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17th at 7:30 pm at the home of Mary Ann Brookes. To RSVP or to request directions, please email or call Mary Ann. Hopefully the mild winter weather will continue and many of you will be able to join us.

Happy Holidays,
Bea Chawla and Rose Mary Bland

New AAUW Branch Website

Did you notice our new URL (website address)?

It's <http://medford-nj.aauw.net/> and ready for use. While the previous website worked just fine, it was also an annual expense of about \$130. Thanks to the national AAUW organization, branches have been offered a free website service through their web source, provided we maintain the content. A very nice web designer named Megan helped migrate our information over to the new site to get us going quickly.

One nice new feature is a "Members Only" section, which currently has only our member directory, but will also contain other information soon. To get a password for this member area, please call me at 609-953-4035. Please check out the site and let me know what you think. All suggestions are welcome.

Mary Ann Brookes

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.

Osteoporosis Testing Faces Additional Cuts

Medicare reimbursement rates for osteoporosis testing will continue to [decline](#) without congressional action. A National Osteoporosis Foundation study released this week found that reimbursement dropped 56 percent from 2007 to 2010 for tests done in physicians' offices. In addition, testing has stagnated in recent years after a decade of growth. A bipartisan [bill](#), Preservation of Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act (S. 1096/H.R. 2020), would extend the minimum payment for osteoporosis tests through 2013.

Mail It Today! U.S. Postal Service Slows Delivery Times

Allow two to five days when sending first-class mail. The U.S. Postal Service is closing numerous processing centers, which will affect the delivery of holiday mail and end-of-year giving.

"The Protester" Named Person of the Year

Time Magazine selected its annual person of the year on Wednesday, naming "the protester" the most influential person of 2011. Sparked by a fruit vendor in Tunisia, protests in 2011 have done everything from oust authoritarian dictators to draw attention to economic and social inequality around the world. From those in the Arab Spring uprisings to those in Greece and Russia to those participating in the Occupy Wall Street movement, protestors of 2011 "didn't just voice their complaints," says Time. "They changed the world."

2011/12 Executive Board

President

Mary Ann Brookes

VP Membership

Sylvia Teahan

VP Programs

Dian Hattrick

Lynne Poag

Treasurer

June Ramondetta

Secretary

Tricia Reace

Public Policy

Lynne Poag

Legal Advocacy Fund

Tina Wetterau

Scholarship & Fundraising

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**Role Descriptions - Per AAUW & Branch Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order****President**

- Shall have the usual executive powers of supervision and management and other such duties as designated by the Board of Directors, serve ex officio on all committees and execute all appropriate legal documents of the AAUW branch
- Preside over meetings, calling to order, maintaining order, announcing orders of business, ruling on points of order, put questions to vote, adjourn meetings, call for committee reports

Vice President Membership

- Custodian of official branch membership roster, coordinating with Treasurer for dues status; leader for membership recruitment campaigns; custodian of name badges for meetings; official greeter at meetings
- Shall assume the office of president in event of vacancy of that office; perform the duties of president when president unable to serve; assist as delegated by president or Board

Vice President Programs

- Arrange and administer program portion of general meetings, such as speakers, lectures and entertainment, including necessary logistics
- Shall assume the office of president in event of vacancy of that office; perform the duties of president when president unable to serve; assist as delegated by president or Board

Treasurer

- Shall perform the duties of president in all cases in which the president and vice president are unable to serve.
- Serve as CFO and treasurer for the branch; custodian of title deeds, business papers and other legal / financial documents of the branch.
- Serve as custodian of funds of the branch, collect and disburse funds by authority of the board or bylaws; make a full financial report at intervals (at least annually) as directed by board; collect dues and remit to state and national
- File required financial reports to parent / regulatory bodies
- Enforce appropriate audit practices, including requiring receipts to reimburse members for branch expenses, reconciling bank accounts

Board Secretary

- Shall be responsible for the minutes of the branch and assist as delegated by President or Board.
- Serve as custodian of non-financial records of the branch, including minutes, bylaws, and general correspondence
- Distribute meeting minutes to attendees

Literature Group

Select and publish books to be read and discussed at monthly meetings; ensure and communicate the meeting venue; ensure submission of monthly article for newsletter to communicate book selection and meeting location.

Public Relations

Serve as the branch contact with news media; submit articles and announcements to publicize branch events and activities, helping to attain fundraising goals and attract new members. Develop or accept ideas for raising public awareness of the branch and provide content / presentation of information.

Newsletter Editor

Publish monthly newsletter from September through May; establish deadlines, collect articles from contributors and ensure distribution via email or postal mail.

Public Policy

Keep current on public policy issues of interest to the membership, and provide informative related articles for the newsletter.

Scholarship/Fundraising

Provide leadership to committee to solicit ideas and execute plans to raise funds for annual scholarship award and for branch expenses. Ensure publication and collection / processing of candidate applications for the scholarship; oversee selection and award processes.

Hospitality

Oversee logistics for meeting venue, ensure location availability and condition; provide for and support volunteers for refreshments, set up and clean up as needed; maintain and pass on supplies inventory, arranging replenishment as necessary.

AAUW-Medford Area Branch

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.



PINELINES

Newsletter Editor:
Mary Ann Brookes
38 Red Oak Trail
Medford, NJ 08055

