



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

In lieu of our February general meeting, please join us for our **2nd Annual Book & Author Champagne Brunch** at Medford Leas on Saturday, February 11. Our author, of course, is Dr. Lois Ramondetta, daughter of our treasurer, June. **The Light Within** is a story of friendship and celebration of life. We're looking forward to a great discussion and delicious brunch at Medford Leas.

We have two last chances this month:

1. If you still want to attend the brunch but haven't signed up, call Mary Strickler at (609) 267-1665 for a last minute spot at the table.
2. The officer and chair role descriptions are included again in this newsletter for your review in deciding which role you might want to fill for the next term.

February's Lit Group will discuss **State of Wonder** by Ann Patchett, a story of suspense, adventure and current issues. Meanwhile, the Scholarship & Fundraising committee is looking beyond the brunch toward our next book sale at the farmers' market.

The Running & Winning Workshop that we are co-sponsoring now has a date and location. The program, designed to help High School girls become aware of and engaged in the political process, will be held at Cherry Hill East High School on Wednesday, April 4. Please sign up to help by contacting Fran Hahn. This should be an exciting and valuable day for local young women.

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, February 11, 11:30 am

2nd Annual Book & Author Champagne Brunch

The Light Within by Dr. Lois Ramondetta

Medford Leas, Medford, NJ

This event takes the place of our general meeting this month.

Tuesday, February 21, 7:30 pm

Lit Group – State of Wonder by Ann Patchett
Home of Tricia Reace

Wednesday, April 4

Running & Winning Workshop
Cherry Hill East HS, Cherry Hill, NJ

Occasions

Birthday wishes go to Tina Wetterau, whose birthday is on February 8, and to Helen O'Neill, who celebrates on February 17!



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

Lit Group

Our February selection is *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett, who also wrote the best seller, *Bel Canto*. In this novel, a research scientist is sent by her drug company to track down her elusive former mentor who is working on a valuable new drug which is costing the company a great deal of money. At the same time, she hopes to find answers as to what happened to her deceased research partner. This suspenseful story takes the reader on a vivid journey through the Amazon and also brings up thorny questions relating to drug development and reproduction.

We will be meeting at the home of Tricia Reace in Marlton at 7:30PM on Tuesday, February 21st. Please RSVP Tricia at 856-985-9031 for directions and to let her know you will be coming. We hope to see you there.

Bea Chawla and Rose Mary Bland

Scholarship & Fundraising

No specifics yet, but I can report that we are well on our way to our goal of being able to give not one, but two scholarships this year. This is partly due to your excellent support of our fund-raising efforts, particularly the upcoming Book and Author Champagne Brunch, and generous contributions we received late last year.

If you have realized at this last minute that you can attend the brunch after all, it's possible you can be squeezed in. Just give me a call at (609) 267-1665.

Now it's time to turn our attention to our next effort - another book sale at the Medford Lakes Farmers Market. We don't have a date yet, and we have a plentiful supply of books to sell. But there is one more thing you all can do. Last fall we had a number of requests at the sale for cook books and children's books. I will be happy to accept other books as well, but these two types will be especially welcome. You can bring them to the March meeting or give me a call to make arrangements to get them to me.

One last note on the scholarships.... We have already received an application. That's exciting, as we usually don't get any until just before the deadline.

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.

Health Care Reform Benefits Young Adults, Faces Ongoing Court Challenge

Almost 1 million additional young adults – a jump from 7.3 million to 8.2 million – now have health insurance through their parents' employment-based coverage as part of the new health care reform law, according to a [report](#) by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute. The law now requires that group health plans and insurers make dependent coverage available for young adults until they turn 26, regardless of student status or financial support from their parents. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that young adults have the highest rates of being uninsured.

In related news, Democratic state attorneys [filed](#) a brief with the Supreme Court defending the constitutionality of the health care law's requirement that all Americans have health insurance. The court is expected to hear oral arguments on the case in mid-March and make a ruling by June. AAUW and several other women's organizations have [filed](#) a brief in support of the law, saying that it serves to improve women's access to health care and health insurance and to end practices that discriminate against women.

AAUW [supports](#) the idea that all Americans are entitled to quality, affordable health care. Failure to provide for and protect that right has had numerous consequences over time, ranging from dismal health outcomes for Americans as compared to the rest of the developed world to excessive indirect costs that have taken a substantial toll on the economy. Women disparately feel these negative outcomes. AAUW is hopeful that the health care law will substantially improve a system that has not worked as well as it needs to for far too long. As implementation of the law continues, AAUW will focus on the need for access and affordability — and in a way that is equitable to women.

More Public Policy

State Funding for Higher Ed. Drops by 7.6 Percent in a Year

By Caralee Adams on January 24, 2012 7:16 AM

More students than ever are headed to college, but the funds to support them are not following.

Total state fiscal support for higher education nationwide declined by 7.6 percent from fiscal year 2011 to FY2012, according to the annual Grapevine survey from the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University, a joint project with State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO).

Losing \$6 billion translated into fewer course offerings and larger class sizes for students. State universities also used more adjunct faculty, froze hiring, and merged academic departments.

The cuts occurred in 41 states (. . . New Jersey saw a -2.5% drop in total state support from 2011 to 2012; Pennsylvania's change was -13.4%. Arizona saw the largest decline---25.1%.--Information from Grapevine Table 7)

In a commentary by Paul Lingenfelter, president of SHEEO, said that educators were worried about educational funding falling off a "cliff" when federal funding was no longer available. "From this year's Grapevine survey of FY2012 appropriations, we now know how steep that fall turned out to be for higher education," he wrote."The federal stimulus funds, provided to cushion the effects of the recession, were helpful in 2009, 2010, and 2011, but they were virtually depleted by 2012."

The reason: the slow economic recovery and the end of federal stimulus money. How states will cope with less money varies.

"Those with the largest percentage declines in state support will experience the greatest upward pressure on tuition rates and on recruiting out-of-state students for revenue stabilization," writes Lingenfelter. "More worrying, however, is the potential loss of access for students with significant financial need as state support for financial aid also declines. Such loss of access and change in resident-nonresident mix will have implications for the availability of an adequately educated workforce in those states."

Programs

We're looking forward to greeting members and friends at our Second Annual Book and Author Brunch on February 11. As you know, many hours of behind-the-scenes work are needed to ensure that such an event comes off without a hitch. We hope you'll take an opportunity during the brunch to thank Mary Strickler and her committee for their due diligence!

Lynne Poag and Dian Hatrick

2011/12 Executive Board

President

Mary Ann Brookes

VP Membership

Sylvia Teahan

VP Programs

Dian Hatrick
Lynne Poag

Treasurer

June Ramondetta

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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 Membership Roster



By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.



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