



American Association of University Women

PINELINES

March 2012

Medford, New Jersey

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

Mary Strickler and the rest of the Fundraising Committee are celebrating a very successful Book & Author event. Please see Mary's article for details. Thanks to everyone for supporting the event, including honored guests Sally Goodson, NJ AAUW President, and several members of other branches. Please return the favor by supporting their events—see the "Other Branch" item below.

The Running & Winning Workshop has a new date, Tuesday, April 3, to accommodate some schedule conflicts. Please see Fran Hahn's article for details and contact her to participate in this exciting event.

I hope to see you at Cranberry Hall in March!

Mary Ann Brookes

Other Branch Events

Willingboro Branch, April 27, Annual Book & Author Luncheon, Riverton Country Club

Michael Rushnak, author of the thriller, *Terminal Neglect*

Call Muriel Rains at 215-490-3676

Salem County Branch, March 24, Noon, 4th Annual Women's History Tea, Friends Meetinghouse Annex, Woodstown, NJ

Founding Mother Abigail Adams will discuss our early history

Call 935-7313 Or 769-1595

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, March 13, 7:30 pm

General Meeting – Speaker: Actor Joan Slavin
Theme: WW II Love Letters and the Making of a Play
Cranberry Hall, Medford

Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 pm

Lit Group – Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand
Cranberry Hall, Medford

Tuesday, April 3, 8:00 am—2:30 pm

Running & Winning Workshop
Cherokee High School

Occasions

Birthday wishes go to Lois Kling, whose birthday is on March 16, and to June Ramondetta, who celebrates on March 23!



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

Scholarship & Fundraising

The returns are in! The Book and Author Brunch netted us nearly \$1700! When added to our previous events, the ill-fated Riversharks game, the book sale at the Medford Lakes Farmers Market, and the generous donations we received last Spring after we had already awarded our scholarship, it brings us to a total of more than \$2800. As we agreed that we would give two awards this year if we topped \$2000, that is now our plan.

The event itself was a big success. The weather cooperated - never a sure thing in February - and we had nearly a full house at Medford Leas, including a visit from Sally Goodson, the president of AAUW in New Jersey. Our speaker, the daughter of our treasurer, June Ramondetta, was delightful, and kind enough to donate to us a good portion of the money she made in selling her book after her presentation. The staff at Medford Leas did their usual excellent job with the food and the service. All in all, we couldn't be more pleased. **Thank you all for your support.**

So we're going to do it again. **Mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 20th.** The room at Medford Leas is booked and see Rita's message about our speaker.

In the meantime, we are going to stay in the book-selling business. There is an event in Medford in April, known as "Medford Works". We plan to have a table on the street that day to sell what we already have. While we are well stocked with general interest books, we can always use a few more. But we are particularly interested in cookbooks and children's books after we had several requests for them previously. You can bring your donations to the general meeting, or contact me or Mary Ann Brookes and we'll make arrangements to get them from you. We will probably also set up our booth at the Farmers Market once or twice over the spring and summer to get a head start on next year.

And since the point of all of this is to award scholarships to deserving women from our area, we need to spread the word that they are available. If you would like to have a flyer - or several - that you can post in your church, your gym, the stores you frequent, or any place else where candidates might see them, please let me know and I will get them to you.

Mary Strickler

Next Brunch Author

I'm happy to announce that Pulitzer Prize winning author Amy Ellis Nutt will be our featured speaker at our book/author event on October 20. Amy, who is a writer at the Star Ledger, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2008 for a series of very detailed stories about the sinking of the Lady Mary ship off the coast of Cape May where all but one of the crew died.

The following year in 2009 she was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for a series of articles "The Accidental Artist." She turned those articles into a book, *Shadows Bright as Glass*, the true life story of a chiropractor who suffered a stroke. When he recovered, he was a changed man and became an artist who has paintings hanging in galleries across the country. Her book is about that transformation and the workings of the brain.

Amy this week is serving as a judge for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize candidates.

I'm thrilled that Amy will be our author and I hope you are too.

Rita Manno

Lit Group

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand, is the book to be discussed at the March Lit Group meeting. The book, written by the author of the best seller *Seabiscuit*, tells the true story of Louie Zamperini. An Olympic runner during the 1930s, he flew B-24s during WWII. Taken prisoner by the Japanese, he endured a captivity harsh even by Japanese standards and suffered from PTSD for many years following his ordeal. *Unbroken*, a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit has been described as "a master class in narrative storytelling . . . extraordinarily moving . . . a powerfully drawn survival epic."

The Lit Group will meet at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, March 20th at Cranberry Hall. We look forward to seeing you there and discussing this amazing book. Please call Bea or Rose Mary if you need directions to Cranberry Hall.

Bea Chawla and Rose Mary Bland

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.

WASHINGTON — The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Action Fund released today a scorecard of congressional action on issues that will be critical to women and their families when they cast their votes in the upcoming elections.

The Congressional Voting Record, available at www.aauwaction.org, covers the first session of the 112th Congress, outlines how U.S. senators and representatives voted and whether they co-sponsored legislation on priority issues affecting education, economic security, and civil rights.

As in the previous Congress, the story of the 112th Congress has been dominated by the economic recession. The similarity, however, stops there. While the 111th Congress made considerable progress on many of AAUW's priority issues, the current Congress has been caught in a vitriolic ideological divide. As a result, it has made little to no progress on women's issues. Instead of working to improve economic security, Congress has put eligibility for college affordability programs on the chopping block. Rather than helping women find jobs, Congress spent precious time and effort on damaging austerity measures. And while it could have been working to ensure women are paid fairly for their work, the House of Representatives instead attacked reproductive health programs.

"This voting record shows that Congress is gridlocked on the issues that can make a difference for women and their families," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "This excessive partisanship isn't just disappointing, it's discouraging to a nation that expected the new Congress to make economic recovery priority number one."

There is a silver lining for some women's issues: The 112th Congress has made progress on campus safety and domestic violence. Thanks in part to AAUW's support, many senators and representatives became co-sponsors of legislation to protect students on college campuses, and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act was introduced.

"This voting record underscores the lack of action on women's issues and will be a powerful tool outside the Beltway," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "The AAUW Action Fund's nationwide voter education program, It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard, will be working to turn out the women's vote to ensure that elected officials are held accountable for their votes."

The AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps, a group of AAUW members who lobby Congress every week it is in session, will make a special effort to thank members of Congress who have a 100 percent voting record.

Issues for AAUW:

D.C. Vouchers; Campus Safety; Full-Year Spending; Cut, Cap, and Balance; Paycheck Fairness Act, and Pence/Reproductive Health

Voting record of NJ Senators and Representatives

New Jersey Senators

Lautenberg (D) Menendez (D) 100% voting record for AAUW issues.

New Jersey Representatives -- Medford Area Branch Members live in Congressional Districts 1, 2, 3

Andrews (D-1) 83%

LoBiondo (R-2) 33%

Runyan (R-3) 0%

Frelinghuysen (R-11) 20%; Garrett (R-5) 0%;

Holt (D-12) 100%; Lance (R-7) 0%;

Pallone (D-6) 83%; Pascrell (D-8) 100%;

Payne (D-10) 100%; Rothman (D-9) 100%;

Sires (D-13) 83%; Smith (R-4) 0%

I encourage you to access the full voting record of our representatives. John Runyan (R-3) did not vote for a single AAUW priority affecting education, economic security, and civil rights; Frank LoBiondo (R-2) voted for 2; and Rob Andrews (D-1) voted for 5.

Lynne

First Annual Burlington County Running and Winning Workshop

The League of Women Voters has sponsored the Running and Winning Workshop in various counties/towns in New Jersey for the last ten years. Through this program, many young women have gained a new view of public service and achieved leadership skills that they can apply to many endeavors, including running for office. The Medford AAUW chapter has donated \$500 for this first annual Burlington County Running and Winning Workshop. Other partners include the Alice Paul Foundation, and the Willingboro AAUW chapter. The League and its partners are also seeking donations from businesses and working hard to plan all aspects of the event.

The workshop, to be held on Tuesday, April 3 from 8:00 am to approximately 2:30 pm, begins with presentations by the invited state and local elected female officials. The young women then meet in small groups and interview the officials about the challenges and rewards of holding public office. The young women will work in teams to devise a "campaign." They will develop a position on an issue about which The League of Women Voters supplies background research and information. Each group will select a candidate, create a slogan and make a poster, and help the candidate to write and deliver a speech.

There is also an opportunity, however, for members of the Medford AAUW to participate in this first annual event by serving as a facilitator or a general volunteer. The role of a facilitator is to work with the various groups of young women as they plan their "campaign". Volunteers are also needed for intake in the morning and other organizational tasks throughout the day. An information/training opportunity for the facilitators will be held on March 28, 2012 at the Alice Paul facility on Hooton Road in Mt. Laurel, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. If you attend the training and determine that you do not wish to be a facilitator, you are invited to assist with other volunteer activities. If you can only stay for a portion of the day, that would also be appreciated.

We hope that we can count on you to help make this a successful event, and help to demonstrate the commitment of the Medford AAUW chapter to this valuable leadership program for young women. Please feel free to contact Fran Hahn in you wish to assist with this exciting program.

Fran Hahn

Programs

Congratulations to Mary Strickler and her committee for coordinating and hosting our very successful 2nd Annual Book & Author Brunch. June's daughter Lois was a wonderful speaker who shared with us exceptional experiences, conveyed through her book *The Light Within*. Thank you to all who attended and brought friends, making this a very successful fundraiser for our scholarship program.

Looking forward to our meeting on March 12, we are pleased to have Joan Slavin share her experiences as an actor. Her theme will include: WW II Love Letters and the Making of a Play. Be sure to join us for a very interesting evening.

Lynne Poag and Dian Hatrick

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Bea Chawla

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Rita Manno

Newsletter Coordinator

Mary Ann Brookes

AAUW-Medford Area Branch

At the 2nd Annual Book & Author Brunch, Medford Leas



Speaker Dr. Lois Ramondetta (right) and daughter Jessie fielding questions



Mary Ann Brookes and NJ AAUW President, Sally Goodson

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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