



### 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

Finally, spring is here and there are signs of new life everywhere. So who cares if all those allergens also come out now?

We have two scholarships to award at our May dinner. Please see Mary's item for more information on that topic.

The Running & Winning Workshop is on Tuesday, April 3. Fran Hahn has been working hard with the other committee members, lining up political participants and donations, organizing and planning to make this a successful event. Several of our members have also volunteered to help out on Tuesday, so we look forward to great stories and pictures in the next newsletter. Please contact Fran if you would like to participate in this exciting event.

In addition to an interesting speaker, our April meeting includes the voting process for our branch officers to be installed at our May dinner meeting. So please come out for a productive and fun evening.

As everyone is likely aware, there are lots of things happening at both the state and federal levels that could have a dramatic effect on women and girls. Please see the Public Policy articles for some of the topics under discussion.

See you on April 10.

Mary Ann Brookes

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 pm**

**General Meeting – Speaker:** Victoria Chase, Chairperson of clinical law programs, Rutgers School of Law—Camden

**Topic:** NJ Domestic Violence Law  
Cranberry Hall, Medford

**Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 pm**

**Lit Group – The Thirteenth Tale**, by Diane Setterfield

Home of Nancy Sauer

**Tuesday, April 3, 8:00 am—2:30 pm**

**Running & Winning Workshop**  
Cherokee High School

## Occasions

Please join me in wish the best of birthdays this month to Rose Mary Bland, who will be celebrating April 23rd.



We've certainly had abundant sunshine so far this spring, but if you know of someone who needs a bit more, please be sure to let Mary Ann or me know.

We'd like to celebrate all of our members birthdays, so please send me yours if you've not already done so.

Tricia Reace

## Scholarship & Fundraising

**WANTED:** cook books and children's books

For our upcoming book sale. Unfortunately we have not been able to arrange to have it as part of the Medford Works celebration, but are still anticipating opportunities at the Medford Lakes Farmers Market, so I am building up the inventory.

### Scholarship Winners

At the next general meeting (April) we will be announcing to the membership the names of the two women we have chosen to receive scholarships this year. They have been chosen, but I don't want to publicize their names until we have had a chance to contact them personally, and also to let those who were not chosen know that the decision has been made.

We were pleased to have ten applicants this year - any one of whom would have been a decent choice. Narrowing it down to the two recipients was difficult. Thanks to Mary Ann Brookes, Rita Manno and June Ramondetta for their help with that, and to Sylvia Teahan for accepting the applications.

*Mary Strickler*

## Programs

Victoria Chase will be our speaker at the April 10 meeting. Ms. Chase is a clinical associate professor and chairperson of clinical law programs at the Rutgers School of Law—Camden, where she supervises the Domestic Violence Project. She teaches Disability Law and Professional Responsibility. Her topic for the evening discussion will be the NJ Domestic Violence Law.

Please join us to learn more about this topic that affects far too many women in our society.

*Lynne Poag and Dian Hatrick*

## Running and Winning Workshop

The first annual Burlington County Running and Winning Workshop is coming up on Tuesday, April 3 at Cherokee High School, from 8:00 am to approximately 2:30 pm.

The program is designed to help young women gain a new view of public service and achieve leadership skills that they can apply to many endeavors, including running for office.

If you did not attend the facilitator training, you are still welcome to assist with other volunteer activities. If you can only stay for a portion of the day, that would also be appreciated.

Medford Branch has donated \$500 for the program and several of our branch members will be participating in the activities. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Fran Hahn.

*Fran Hahn*

## Lit Group

Our April selection is *The Thirteenth Tale*, the debut novel of former academic Diane Setterfield. Set in Yorkshire England, where the author lives, *The Thirteenth Tale* tells the story of an aging author who decides to reveal the long-hidden true story of her life to a London bookseller's daughter. If you like reading about "windswept moors, bleak houses and strange families", you'll enjoy *The Thirteenth Tale*.

Come join us at Nancy Sauer's house on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Please RSVP Nancy if you plan to attend and/or need directions.

*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.*

### Health Care Reform Turns Two; Supreme Court Battle Ahead

The Affordable Care Act [celebrated](#) its two-year anniversary today, just three days before oral arguments begin in the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the law's individual mandate. Many of the provisions included in the health care reform help improve the collective health of the American people, with several provisions that aim to create greater access and affordability for women.

The White House [reported](#) that in the last 18 months, roughly 20.4 million women with private health insurance have received preventive services such as mammograms and pap smears without an additional cost due to the provision of the law that required new health insurance plans to cover preventive services with no co-pay or deductible.

Insurance companies can currently [deny](#) coverage based on pre-existing conditions, which for women include being pregnant, having given birth via cesarean section, or being a survivor of domestic violence and receiving treatment for the abuse. In 2014, the law will make it illegal for insurance companies to discriminate against anyone with a pre-existing condition.

Another provision of the law that starts in 2014 will prevent "gender rating," where women are charged more for individual insurance policies because of their gender. A report this week [said](#) that 90 percent of the top-selling health plans charge women more than men in states that have not banned gender rating.

In addition, a recent analysis [found](#) that 49 states and the District of Columbia have already taken some form of action to enforce several of the law's new insurance market reforms. These "early market reforms" fill gaps in insurance coverage through an expansion of access to coverage for young adults, a ban on lifetime limits on essential health benefits, and an end to rescissions, or where insurers terminate coverage if a subscriber gets sick.

AAUW [believes](#) that everyone is entitled to health care that is high-quality, affordable, and easily accessible. We will

support the Affordable Care Act and its protections for women.

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Equal Rights Amendment Spurs Renewed Attention

This Thursday, March 22, marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment's passage in Congress. The legislation fell three states short of the 38 states needed to ratify it. On Thursday, Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) introduced a resolution (S.J. Res. 39) to extend the timeframe for ratification and to help move forward a [three-state strategy](#). He joins Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), who introduced a similar proposal (H.J. Res. 47) in the House. In addition, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) have [introduced](#) resolutions (H.J. Res. 69, S.J. Res. 21) to pass the ERA again in Congress.

AAUW has advocated for women's equality for more than a century and strongly [supports](#) the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. AAUW co-sponsored an event Thursday at the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum that highlighted ERA activists now and then. AAUW Director of Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz participated on a panel at the event.

### House GOP Budget Proposal Would Deeply Cut Social Programs

House Republicans [unveiled](#) their budget proposal Tuesday, featuring heavy cuts to Medicaid, food stamps, and other programs for the poor, while also cutting the top tax rate paid by the wealthy. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), the proposal's author, argued that his budget would put the nation on the path to wiping out the federal deficit and balancing the budget by 2040. The budget [passed](#) the House Budget Committee by a vote of 19-18 and is expected go to the full House next week.

AAUW strongly [opposes](#) Ryan's budget proposal as it is built on the backs of America's families and robs seniors, students, and workers to help America's corporations get richer. AAUW remains committed to urging Congress to pass a budget proposal that benefits America's families.

## Online Articles

Global management consulting firm **McKinsey & Company** has some very interesting articles on its website in a section dedicated to *Women Matter*.

Topics include women's roles in the global workplace, how to achieve gender diversity at the top levels of companies, what can be done to speed up progress, and what business gains from the diversity.

See the reports and articles on McKinsey's website here:

[http://www.mckinsey.com/Features/Women\\_Matter](http://www.mckinsey.com/Features/Women_Matter)

## 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



## 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 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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