



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

For those who missed it, our April speaker, Rutger's Victoria Chase, was great. We had a very lively discussion and a reluctance to call the night to an end! Thanks to outgoing co-chairs of Programs, Lynne Poag and Dian Hattrick, for a terrific line-up of speakers all season long.

The Running & Winning Workshop on April 3 went quite well from all accounts. From our branch, Fran Hahn worked tirelessly behind the scenes for months and members who volunteered that day include Elsie Behmer, Dian Hattrick and Lynne Poag. See the article on page 4, along with some pictures and a link to view a video of some of the participating girls' reactions to the program.

At our May dinner, we have two scholarships to award and new officers to install. The venue this year will be Jasmine. If you haven't been there yet, you're in for a treat. See Bea's article for details.

While the current generation of young women has largely taken for granted rights that were hard won during our lifetimes, this is no time to be complacent. Check out the public policy issues that AAUW continues to address so that those rights are protected in this ever-changing world.

With AAUW top of mind, why not write out your check for 2012 dues now? See the details on page 2.

See you at Jasmine on May 8.

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, May 8, 7:00 pm

Annual Scholarship Award and Officer Installation Dinner

Jasmine Oriental Cuisine

Sharp's Run Plaza, Medford

Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 pm

Lit Group – Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? by Michael J. Sandel

Home of Helen O'Neill

Saturday, October 20, 11:30 pm

Annual Book & Author Champagne Brunch –

Pulitzer Prize winning author Amy Ellis Nutt will be our featured speaker

Occasions

Birthday wishes for the "lovely month of May" go out to Mary Switzer, on the 25th, Carol Vahlstrom on the 28th, and Lynne Poag, who celebrates on the 30th.

And let's not forget our summer birthday celebrants – so happy birthday a bit early to:

Barbara Zeuli – June 7

Carol Guarnieri-Palermo – June 25

Mary Ann Brookes – July 19

Lila Cleaver – July 23

Rachel Wubker – August 29



Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

Tricia

Programs

Our Annual Dinner replaces this month's general meeting. Come out and meet our scholarship recipients and enjoy the company of our fellow members before we break for the summer!

Our *Scholarship Award and Officer Installation Dinner* is on Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 pm. The venue will be the lovely Jasmine Oriental Cuisine, Sharp's Run Plaza (where Acme is), 175-6 Route 70 East, Medford.

Please join us for our season-ending highlight and a delicious dinner. Send checks for \$25 per person by May 5 to June Ramondetta, 119 Bracken Rd, Medford, NJ 08055.

Menu:

Choice of soup: wonton, hot and sour or egg drop

Choice of either egg roll or vegetable spring roll

Family style entrees include the following:

- ◆ *Teriyaki Chicken and Beef*
- ◆ *Thai Chicken Cashew*
- ◆ *Pad Thai (with Shrimp, Tofu and Noodles)*
- ◆ *Vegetable Delight*

White and Brown Rice

Hot Tea

Dessert will be provided by AAUW

BYOB

Bea Chawla

2012 Dues

Dues are again staying the same as last year. Our annual dues will remain at \$65.00 (\$49 for national, \$10 for state and \$6 for our local branch).

National and state dues are due in August, so please save our treasurer from summer duty by paying your dues before we end our season.

You can save the postage and pay in person at our dinner meeting in May or mail in your payment to:

June Ramondetta, Treasurer
119 Bracken Road
Medford, NJ 08055

Scholarship & Fundraising

As you know, we will be awarding our two scholarships at Tuesday's dinner. Please come and meet the recipients, Yolanda Perez and Wandy Rivera.

Many of you will have seen that the Medford Lakes Farmers' Market is having difficulties in planning their season. So we will not be counting on them for our book sales - although we would like to participate if and when they get their problems solved. I am working on two other possible venues, so one way or another, we will be selling some books! And I can always use a few more, particularly cook books and children's books

We are also planning an evening at the Camden Riversharks. Once again, however, I don't have any details for you at the moment. When I do, please cross your fingers that we don't get rained out again.

And, of course, keep October 20th on your calendar for next season's Book and Author Brunch.

Mary Strickler

Lit Group

We will be reading something a little different for our May gathering. The book that has been chosen is *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* written by the extremely popular Harvard professor, Michael J. Sandel. A political philosopher, Sandel attempts to bring moral clarity to the alternatives we confront as democratic citizens.

Using a mix of hypotheticals, news stories, history and legal cases, he presents a wide variety of controversial issues and asks the reader to think about them with an open mind. The book should elicit some very lively discussion.

The meeting will be held at the home of Helen O'Neill on May 15th at 7:30 pm. Please call Helen at 609-953-6868 to request directions and to RSVP.

Bea Chawla and Rose Mary Bland

Public Policy

All articles in this column are the expressed views of AAUW National. They are drawn directly from AAUW Washington Update, the national on-line newsletter.

Do you NOTICE A PATTERN?

Xavier University Halts Contraceptive Coverage in Employee Insurance Plan

Following national debate over whether religious colleges should be required to include contraception in employee health plans, Xavier President Michael J. Graham, a Catholic priest, [announced](#) that Xavier will no longer offer contraceptive coverage. In a letter announcing the decision, Graham said that after revisiting the institution's policies, the Catholic university will stop providing employee health insurance coverage for either contraception or sterilization except in the case of "medical necessity for non-contraceptive purposes." Graham categorized President Barack Obama's accommodation allowing religious universities to shift costs to insurance providers as insufficient.

AAUW [supports](#) women's right to access safe, affordable, and comprehensive contraception and reproductive health services regardless of where they work or learn. AAUW [applauds](#) President Obama's regulations to accommodate widely serving religious institutions and has been [vocal](#) in opposing politically motivated attacks on women's health and birth control access.

Court Dismisses Lawsuit against Title IX Test

A court has [dismissed](#) a lawsuit that challenged the use of Title IX's three-part compliance test in high schools. The American Sports Council's lawsuit against the Department of Education questioned the constitutionality of applying Title IX's three-part compliance test in high schools since the regulations make no mention of high school athletics—only intercollegiate sports. A judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia dismissed the case without hearing the American Sports Council's arguments.

AAUW strongly [supports](#) Title IX and opposes any efforts that would weaken its effectiveness. AAUW believes that expansion of athletic opportunities for girls and women must continue at both the high school and college levels, because it is important not only for the participants themselves but for the benefit of the greater community as well.

Bomb Detonates at Planned Parenthood in Wisconsin

A bomb [exploded](#) outside of a Planned Parenthood clinic Sunday in Grand Chute, Wisc. No one was injured, and the building suffered minimal damage. A man has been [charged](#) with arson of a building used in interstate commerce and intentionally damaging a property used to provide reproductive health services.

AAUW [supports](#) choice in the determination of one's

reproductive life and the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services.

Wisconsin Governor Signs Repeal of State Fair Pay Law

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) signed a bill into law Thursday which will make it more difficult for victims of pay discrimination to get their day in court. The new law repeals Wisconsin's 2009 Equal Pay Enforcement Act, which helped deter pay discrimination by giving worker's more avenues to pursue relief. Supporters of the now-repealed fair pay laws in Wisconsin point out that the state wage gap, at with women earning on average 75 cents for every dollar earned, on average, by men is wider than the national average (which stands at 77 cents to men's dollar).

AAUW has long fought to end wage discrimination, and believes that equal pay for equal work is a simple matter of justice for women. Wage discrimination affects the economic security of families today and directly affects retirement security as women look down the road. AAUW strongly supports initiatives that seek to close the persistent and sizable wage gaps between men and women, and minorities as well. To that end, AAUW supports legislation to promote pay equity and is deeply disappointed by the Wisconsin Legislature's repeal of the Equal Pay Enforcement Act.

Mississippi Senate Passes Bill Regulating Abortion Providers

Mississippi's Senate [passed](#) a bill that may force the state's only clinic that offers abortions —

Jackson Women's Health Organization—to close. The measure requires physicians who perform abortions to have admitting privileges, arrangements with a local hospital for patients to be referred to in case further treatment is needed, and be board certified or eligible in obstetrics and gynecology. Many Mississippi hospitals refuse to grant admitting privileges to physicians who provide abortions. All three of the Jackson Women's Health Organization physicians who provide abortions are board certified in obstetrics and gynecology, but only one of the three has admitting privileges. The measure has already passed Mississippi's House of Representatives and has the support of Gov. Phil Bryant (R).

AAUW [supports](#) the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services. AAUW trusts that every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs. Further, AAUW believes that these deeply personal decisions should be made without governmental interference.

Running and Winning Workshop

Lynne and Dian enjoyed participating in the Running and Winning Workshop at Cherokee High School on April 3rd. About 50 young women were empowered by listening to 20 elected female officials from Burlington County speak about their experiences of civic engagement. The women came from all walks of life - lawyers, business women, homemakers—showing the girls that all types of women can run for elected office and make a difference in their communities. Following the individual speeches, two of the elected officials spoke individually with a table of girls and addressed their specific questions.



The follow-up activity required each table of girls to choose a candidate to run for state senate and collaboratively plan a campaign poster and speech to get her elected. The topic was very timely: "Should the law requiring decals on license plates for teen drivers be amended or repealed?" Before the day ended, each candidate advocated her position in a speech to the audience with her campaign team's support. The "candidates" had strong feelings about this topic, and all campaigned to repeal the law.



Dian and I thoroughly enjoyed working with the intelligent and engaging young women at our tables. They all expressed how much they enjoyed the activities of the day. We would encourage you to volunteer to be a part of this activity next year if we are again asked to be a contributing organization. The League of Women Voters organized the day and were assisted by The Alice Paul Institute, NOW, and our AAUW Medford Area Branch.

Lynne

Here's a link to a short video of the girls talking about the program.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUxBz8R2tyo>

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.



PINELINES

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

