



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

Our May dinner at Jasmine was even better than we could have hoped. Turnout was great, our two scholarship winners and their companions were delightful guests, and the food was wonderful.

We were so pleased to be able to award the two scholarships this year, to Yolima Perez and Wandy Rivera. Thanks go to Mary Strickler and her fundraising committee for enabling the double award. See details about the scholarship and the photo in the article on page 3.

Even as we break for the summer, our fundraising efforts continue. Please volunteer to help out at the book sale on June 24. See Mary's article for details. If you can't help, then come by and pick up a book.

Many thanks to the officers and chairpersons who have served our branch in the latest term, several of whom have graciously agreed to continue for another term. Special thanks to Sylvia, Bea, and Rose Mary for taking on new roles to support us. And welcome and thanks to Helen for taking on the Lit Group role. I'm looking forward to another great year ahead! See the Board line-up on page 4.

If you have already paid this year's dues, it is much appreciated. If not, look for an invoice via postal mail. See the details on this page.

Have a wonderful, safe summer.

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, June 24, 9:00 am—2:30 pm

AAUW Book Sale

Kirby Brothers Farmers Market
67 North Main Street, Medford

Saturday, October 20, 11:30 pm

Annual Book & Author Champagne Brunch –

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

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 July, and our treasurer is traveling during that month, so kindly send your payment early.

This year, we're trying something new, sending invoices with return envelopes so you'll have a physical reminder for the bill pile! Look for yours if you haven't already paid.

To mail, send your check, made out to AAUW Medford Area, to:

**June Ramondetta, Treasurer
119 Bracken Road
Medford, NJ 08055**

Thanks!

Scholarship & Fundraising

Book Sale. Need Volunteers!

I am looking for volunteers for our first book sale of the season (there may be at least one more!)

AT: Kirby Bros Farmers Market
Main Street in Medford

ON: Sunday, June 23rd

FROM: 9am - 2:30pm

Actually the market is open from 10-2, but obviously we need setup and clear away time.

I would like to see at least two volunteers for each of the following time slots; 9:30-10:30 10:30-11:30, 11:30-12:30. 12:30-1:30 and 1:30-2:30 (or whenever we are done packing away the books we haven't sold). Obviously the first and last slots will be the toughest, as you will be unloading or loading the books. That would be 8 people who only need to give an hour. Of course if you are willing to stay longer, please put your name down for successive slots.

We will also need tables, as Kirby's does not provide them. I have a card table, but that's the best I have to offer. We'd need at least four of those, unless someone has a big table they can loan us for the day - and deliver. We may be able to have a tent, but that will be catch as catch can, as Kirby's has a few, but not enough for all their vendors. I will provide chairs so if there are quiet moments, you will be able to sit down.

And, lastly, while we have a great supply at the moment of general books, we could still use a few more cookbooks and any children's books you can donate. Of course, I will accept other books as well.

Riversharks Outing. I am also working on a date for a trip to the Camden Riversharks, but don't have any details yet. Watch for further emails on that, and on the book sale(s).

The best way to let me know you can help is through email - mstrickl@att.net but my phone does have an answering machine, so if you'd prefer that, it's (609) 267-1665. I'm looking forward to seeing you, either as a volunteer or as a customer.

Mary Strickler

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.

Arizona Governor Signs Planned Parenthood Funding Ban

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer (R) [signed](#) a measure into law that bans taxpayer funding from Planned Parenthood for non-abortion services in the state. Arizona law already prohibits the use of public funds for abortions except to save the life of the mother, but anti-choice proponents of the legislation argued that the measure was needed to ensure no public money indirectly supports abortion services. Planned Parenthood Arizona estimates the funding ban will disrupt preventive health care and family planning services for nearly 20,000 women served by Planned Parenthood clinics in the state.

Higher Education, Better Health Linked

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [reveal](#) that people with more education and their families have healthier lives. The findings linked higher levels of education with families less likely to be obese, less likely to smoke, and with a greater life expectancy.

AAUW strongly [supports](#) making higher education affordable and accessible for all Americans. AAUW believes ensuring and increasing access to higher education is imperative to helping women obtain financial security and economic independence.

State Redistricting Targets Women of Both Parties

Casualties from redistricting at the state level often hit women lawmakers the hardest. Although Democrats were hit harder in the latest round of redistricting, the process overall has targeted women of both parties, including women in leadership positions. Just 24 percent of state lawmakers nationwide are women.

Women have made tremendous strides in becoming top decision-makers in both public service and private enterprise. AAUW strongly opposes efforts to deny women such an opportunity and advocates programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the work force and in political office.

Lynne

2012 Scholarships

At our dinner on May 8, Yolima Perez of Delanco and Wandy Rivera of Burlington shared the spotlight as the AAUW Medford area scholarship recipients. We were delighted that our fundraising efforts enabled us to award two \$1,000 scholarships this year instead of just one.

The scholarships are awarded annually to non-traditional female residents of Burlington County who may have left college for family reasons and now want to return on a career path, women who never had the chance to attend college or women in college struggling to balance family responsibilities and having the money to pay tuition and other educational expenses.

Both Perez and Rivera are highly-motivated women whose applications to the AAUW included an essay that laid out their lives, where they are now and what they want to work towards.

Perez, 35, was born and raised in a small town in Columbia with 13 brothers and sisters. After high school, she moved to Bogota to work and continue her education. She worked in a senior living facility for eight years there in order to pay for some of her college education. She and her husband moved to the United States in 2005 and she worked at the Montessori Academy in Delran as a teacher's assistant.

They soon found out their newborn son had cerebral palsy and other health problems. She had to quit her job to take care of him. After multiple therapies and interventions, their son's health became better. At that time she wanted to return to school and get a degree in nursing to be a home care nurse who can work with special needs children and their families.

Perez is taking two courses at Burlington County College – English as a second language and math – as prerequisites to the nursing program. She struggles with English because it really is her second language. Care for her son is helped by home health aides. Unfortunately, her husband recently lost his job, which has caused financial problems.

Rivera, 36, is a single mother of three boys. She enrolled in Burlington County College because she believed no matter how hard it is, education is really important. Her Pastor Israel Lugo Jr., who wrote her recommendation letter, said that Rivera was a very determined person, taking care of her children while working at the state Division of Taxation. "She often serves as a clear moral and intellectual standard to which her friends aspire," said the Pastor.

She earned her GED degree when her oldest son was two years old. Her education goal now is to finish BCC with an Associate Degree in Accounting and in Business Administration. She wants to eventually earn a Bachelors Degree in Accounting and become an investigator or auditor for Income taxes.



At the May 8 dinner, the scholarship winners and their companions are shown with Scholarship Chair, Mary Strickler (center). Left are Wandy Rivera and fiancé, Pablo. On the right are Yolima Perez and her husband.

Congratulations to both Yolima and Wandy!

Thanks to Rita Manno for her article and Lynne Poag for the photo.



Current and New Board Members—transition effective July 1, 2012

2011/12 Executive Board

President

Mary Ann Brookes

VP Membership

Sylvia Teahan

VP Programs

Dian Hattrick

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

2012/13 Executive Board

President

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VP Membership

Sylvia Teahan

VP Programs

Sylvia Teahan

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Mary Strickler

Literature Group

Rose Mary Bland

Helen O'Neill

Hospitality

Rose Mary Bland

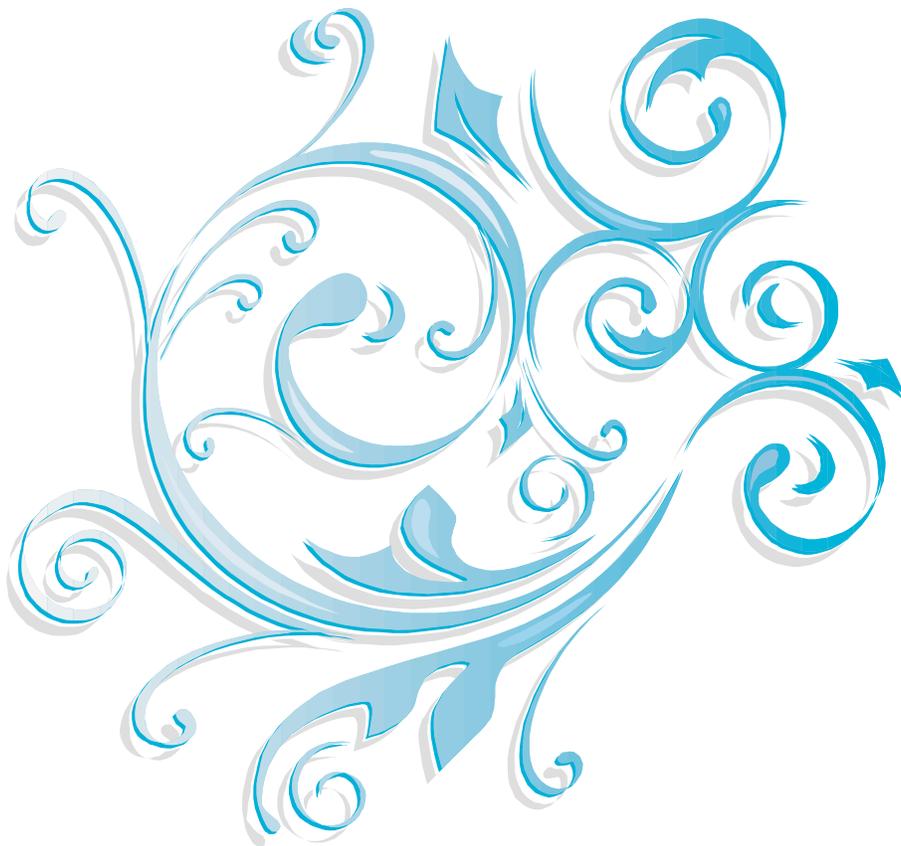
Public Relations

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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