



American Association of University Women

PINELINES

September 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

The summer has flown by all too quickly! While I personally welcome the cooler weather, I sure have enjoyed the longer days of sunlight.

A number of our members have been busy between trips and other activities, making progress for our AAUW branch agenda. New Program co-VP's Bea Chawla and Sylvia Teahan have lined up a great roster of speakers for us, while Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland have selected this year's Lit Group list. Last but not least, Mary Strickler and the Fundraising Committee have held a couple book sales to add to our scholarship fund. Check out the details inside.

The Running & Winning Workshop will again be held next Spring and the Executive Board will be proposing our participation again, up for a vote by members at the September meeting.

Due to safety concerns, until the exterior lighting is addressed, Cranberry Hall will be closed to evening programs. So we will hold our opening Tea at the MAC, on Main Street. The center is a charming venue. Come early to allow time to view the wonderful displays.

Please mark your calendars for all of our upcoming events. Don't forget Military Day at Indian Acres Tree Farm. Dian is still seeking helpers for the games we are sponsoring for the kids. Contact her via email villagecoach@verizon.net or 609-953-8181.

I hope to see you all at the MAC on September 11.

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, September 11 , 7:30 pm

Annual Season Opening Tea

Medford Arts Center
18 N. Main Street, Medford

Tuesday, September 18, 7:30 pm

Lit Group – The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak

Home of Rose Mary Bland

Saturday, September 22, 10 am -5 pm

Indian Acres Tree Farm - Military Day

AAUW sponsors kids games!

Sunday, September 16, 10 am—2 pm

& Sunday, October 14, 10 am—2 pm

Fundraising book sales

Farmers' Market at Kirby's
Main Street, Medford

Saturday, October 20, 11:30 pm

Annual Book & Author Champagne Brunch

Pulitzer Prize winning author Amy Ellis Nutt
Medford Leas, Medford

Occasions

Birthday wishes for September go out to three of our members:

Rita Manno – September 11
Casey Moore – September 26
Tricia Reace – September 26



Have a great day, Ladies!

If you haven't shared your birthday yet, please send it along so we can celebrate you, too.

And please continue to let us know if any members need a note of encouragement, a card of thanks, or congratulations.

Lit Group

The Literature Group has developed a varied selection of books for the coming year, books which promise to inspire many a thoughtful discussion. We plan to begin the year with our September selection, *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak. Set in Germany during World War II, this is the story of a young girl who attempts to scratch out a meager existence for herself by stealing something she cannot resist - books.

For our October selection, we return to the United States with *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. This non-fiction selection is based on numerous interviews and follows the journey of three Southerners, each representing a different decade of the great migration north.

In September, we will be meeting at the home of Rose Mary Bland. Please contact Rose Mary at 609-714-1497, rosebland@comcast.net for directions. For our October meeting, we will be at the home of Helen O'Neill, 609-953-6868, helen1409@verizon.net.

The 2012-2013 book selections will include the following:

- September 18:** *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak (found in the Teen Literature section).
October 16: *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson
November 20: *On the Road*, by Jack Kerouak
December 18: *The Night Circus*, by Erin Morgenstern
January 15: *Beautiful Souls: Saying No, Breaking Ranks and Heeding the Voice of Conscience in Dark Times*, by Eyal Press
February 19: *The Sun Also Rises*, by Ernest Hemingway
March 19: *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks
April 16: *Vera*, by Stacey Schiff
May 21: *The Buddha in the Attic*, by Julie Otsuka

Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland

Programs

This season's programs, including some fascinating speakers and special events, provide a little something for everyone:

- September 11:** *Annual Season Opening Tea*
October 20: *Book & Author Champagne Brunch* featuring author Amy Nutt
November 13: Pat Moore – chairperson of archives for the South Jersey Girl Scouts
December 11: *Holiday Dinner*
January 8: Joyce Fowler – VP of Lawnside Historical Society and tour coordinator of the Peter Mott House
February 12: Janet Lindman – professor at Rowan College
March 12: Dr. Katz dean of Cooper Medical school at Rowan University
April 9: Leslie Spencer – Professor at Rowan in the Department of Health and Exercise Science
May-14: *Scholarship Dinner*

Sylvia Teahan and Bea Chawla

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.

GOP Platform Contains No Exceptions for Abortion in Cases of Rape

CNN obtained a [draft](#) of the Republican National Committee's platform before it will be released at the convention next week. The platform will again contain staunch pro-life language with no exceptions for abortions in the case of rape. The platform also calls for a human life amendment to the Constitution and commends Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives for trying to pass a 20-week abortion ban in the District of Columbia.

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.

ACLU Files Same-Sex Education Lawsuit in West Virginia

A West Virginia public middle school is [facing](#) a lawsuit from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) alleging gender discrimination. The middle school has begun separating male and female students for general education classes, claiming that gender differences cause students to learn differently. The lawsuit alleges that the boys' classrooms are lit more brightly; the boys are allowed to get up and move around more often; and the girls are encouraged to sit still and share their feelings with others. The ACLU says the school is in violation of Title IX, which prohibits schools that receive federal funding from discriminating based on sex.

In Economic Recovery, Women Begin to Catch Up With Men

A [report](#) from [the Institute for Women's Policy Research](#) (IWPR) recently outlined job growth in the third year of recovery since the Great Recession ended. The first two years saw men gaining back jobs at a much higher rate than women. This year, women's job gains have begun to close the gap. Throughout the recovery, women have fared the best in education and health services. Still, men have gained back proportionately more jobs than women in every industry. Thus far, women have gained back 38.7 percent of jobs lost, compared with men's 45.2 percent.

AAUW strongly [believes](#) access to high-wage, high-skill jobs should be a right for women and girls from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, age, and disability backgrounds, and that access should include training for nontraditional jobs. AAUW maintains that creating opportunities for women — and opportunities that promote equal pay — is an essential part of the economic recovery.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATES

CBO Warns of Recession if Congress Doesn't Act to Prevent "Fiscal Cliff"

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [warned](#) this week that the country could face a deep recession if Congress does not take action to prevent what's being called "the fiscal cliff." In the 2013 calendar year, the Bush-era tax rates will expire and automatic spending cuts will be implemented unless Congress acts to prevent these changes; the fact that all of these significant changes in revenue and spending are set to happen at the same time has led analysts to dub this event as the "fiscal cliff." The CBO predicted that if nothing is done and the changes are allowed to go into effect, the deficit would decrease, but the economy would suffer and unemployment would rise. An infographic from the CBO explaining the consequences can be seen [here](#).

AAUW [believes](#) Congress should enact a sensible plan, including increased revenues, to reduce the federal deficit before the federal budget sequestration begins in January 2013. However, if this compromise is not reached in time, AAUW strongly believes that sequestration must be applied equally to both defense and non-defense discretionary spending, and that cuts to non-defense discretionary spending should exclude programs that promote job creation and economic security, expand educational opportunities, defend civil rights, and protect women's health.

Lynne

Scholarship & Fundraising

First a little news of our summer's activities....

We have held two book sales at Kirby's Farmers Market - in June and August. Between them we have raised just over \$200.

Then what's coming up....

We expect to hold two more book sales, one on **Sunday, September 16th** and **one on Sunday, October 14th**. I am always interested in volunteers to help with these. They run from 10 am until 2 pm, but we start working at 9 am to set up and are usually packed up and ready to leave by 2:30. I will be contacting what has become my regular crew, but we would welcome others, so please let me know if you can help. We do not need any more books - mostly because my den is full up and there are already more boxes than I can transport in one van load! That being said, we can always use more children's books.

And the big event for the season, our **Annual Book & Author Champagne Brunch**, will be on Saturday, October 20, 11:30 am at Medford Leas. Our speaker will be Amy Ellis Nutt, a Pulitzer Prize winning author. You all will be getting an invitation soon, but mark your calendars now if you haven't already done so. This single event should fund our scholarship for the year, but that will depend on a good turnout, so invite all your friends. If there is someone you would like us to send an invitation to, please tell me or Mary Ann Brookes and we will make that happen.

And I know I promised a trip to the Riversharks, and I must apologize - I got too busy to make that happen. Maybe next year....

Mary Strickler

Thanks—2012 Dues

Thank you to those who have paid their dues, and an extra special thanks to those who included a little something extra for our scholarship fund!

If you haven't already renewed, please mail your payment to:

June Ramondetta, Treasurer
119 Bracken Road
Medford, NJ 08055

Author Brunch

We are excited that Pulitzer Prize winning author Amy Ellis Nutt will be the featured speaker at our Book/Author event on Oct. 20. Amy will talk about her book *Shadows Bright As Glass*, the remarkable story of "One Man's Journey from Brain Trauma to Artistic Triumph." This is the fascinating, true story of a man who one day was a chiropractor with a normal family life but after a stroke awoke a different man, a painter whose art work is displayed in galleries across the country. Amy, a long-time reporter at the Star-Ledger, is recognized as one of the premiere writers and storytellers in the country.

Rita Manno

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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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