



American Association of University Women

# PINELINES

November 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 wind and rain are raging outside, so while I still have power, I'm writing this in hopes that everyone stays dry and safe.

Our Book & Author Champagne Brunch at Medford Leas was a success and our scholarship fund is positioned well. Amy Ellis Nutt was delightful and everyone had a good time. Thanks to Rita for connecting us with Amy and Mary and her committee for all the logistics to make the event happen. See Mary's details inside.

We're back to the MAC this month for our general meeting, featuring speakers from a well-established organization promoting opportunity for girls, The Girl Scouts, which is celebrating its centennial this year. See if the sample uniforms bring back some good memories!

This month's Lit Group selection is *On The Road* by Jack Kerouak. It should be great discussion material. Anyone remember Maynard G. Krebs before he became Gilligan?

Of course, the most important event this month is election day. Regardless of your party or candidates, whether you enjoy or despise the endless campaign coverage and ads, and even if you wonder if it makes a difference, this is what those like Alice Paul fought for—for us to have the right to cast our vote. So many of our ancestors did not, and so many women in other countries even today do not. It behooves us to make sure we don't take it for granted. Cast your vote on November 6.

I hope to see you at the MAC on November 13.

Mary Ann Brookes

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, November 13, 7:30 pm**

**General Meeting** – Speakers **Pat Moore & Donna Evans**

**Topic:** Girl Scouts

Medford Arts Center

18 N. Main Street, Medford

**Tuesday, November 20, 7:30 pm**

**Lit Group** – **The On The Road** by Jack Kerouak

Home of Tina Wetterau

## Occasions

**Birthday wishes** for November go out to two of our members:

Gladys Lowden-Metz – November 3

Judy Mangeng – November 16



**Enjoy your special 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.

## Scholarship & Fundraising

Our latest Book and Author Brunch was a success, in spite of a slightly disappointing turnout. Amy Ellis Nutt was a great speaker! She not only told us a bit about her book, *Shadows Bright As Glass*, and about the man whose experiences prompted it, but she also talked at length about the art of story telling and the fact that it is as old as man. As always, Medford Leas put out a delicious buffet and a fine time was had by all.

The best news, of course, is that our fund-raising efforts to date have ensured that we will be able to award a scholarship this year. The total is already just over a thousand dollars, thanks to the brunch, our book sales, and several nice donations. ***Thank you, thank you to all who have made this possible!***

And we do not intend to rest on our laurels. The fund-raising group has already discussed some more book sales in the Spring, and will be considering other ideas for the remainder of our season. It would be great if we could do two scholarships again this year, but it will take some effort. New ideas are always welcome.

Now is the time, however, to turn our attention to the application process. That will be the focus after this week, when we have completed sorting and storing the books we still have in our inventory. And, no, we do not want any more donations at the moment. Storage for the winter is an issue. If you have books to give us, please hold on to them until Spring. Thanks!

In the meantime, be thinking of ways to get the word out about the scholarships to women who might benefit from it.

*Mary Strickler*



## Lit Group

The November Lit Group selection is Jack Kerouac's most famous work, *On the Road*. Largely credited with being the inspiration for the 50's "Beat Generation," the book chronicles the cross-country journey of Sal Paradise and Dean Moriarty, two buddies loosely based on the author and his real-life friend.

Reviews of the novel range from "one of the most important novels of the century," to "the novel I loved to hate." Regardless, it is one of those novels that will certainly incite a great deal of discussion and that, after all, is what book groups are all about.

So, plan to join us on November 20 at 7:30 pm at the home of Tina Wetterau to voice your opinion regarding this controversial artifact of American history. For directions and to RSVP, please call Tina at 609-509-3848.

*Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland*

## Programs

This is the centennial year for the Girl Scouts, started by Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low, who "believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually."

Our featured speakers for November are Pat Moore and Donna Evans, representatives from the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey. Pat will speak about the history of Girl Scouting: how it began and how it has evolved. Donna will speak about the current Girl Scout program and the future goals of Girl Scouting.

They will bring uniforms, artifacts and literature that may bring back memories for our members.

*Bea and Sylvia*

## 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.*

### **Middle-Aged Americans Most Worried About Retirement Security**

The Pew Research Center released a survey on Monday that shows an increase in anxiety across all age groups concerning financial security after retirement. While Baby Boomers have traditionally been the most concerned age group, Americans aged 35 to 44 are now the most worried about retirement. Nearly half of those in their late 30s said they had "little or no confidence" that they would have enough money for retirement, more than double the percentage that said so in 2009. The study proposes that this age group may be most anxious because many of them bought homes in the peak of the housing boom and are still concerned about the devalued housing market.

AAUW believes in "strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization." Older women especially benefit greatly from this program, since many depend on Social Security as their primary source of retirement income.

### **Appeals Court Strikes Down Planned Parenthood Defunding Law in Indiana**

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down an Indiana law last week which sought to cut Medicaid funding for general health services at Planned Parenthood. The court ruled that the state violated federal regulations by limiting the ability of Medicaid recipients to choose their doctors. The Indiana law is similar to other laws across the country aimed at reducing federal funds for Planned Parenthood because the organization provides abortions (by law, no federal funds can be used for abortions). Two weeks ago, a federal court in Arizona struck down a similar law to end funding there for Planned Parenthood.

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. AAUW believes that these deeply personal decisions should be made without governmental interference.

### **New York Court Upholds Marriage Equality Law**

New York's Court of Appeals rejected a final attack against marriage equality in the state. In June 2011, New York passed the Marriage Equality Act; since the law took effect, over 10,000 same-sex couples have been married in the state. New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms filed a motion accusing the state of violating the state Open Meetings Law during two meetings that preceded the vote for marriage equality. The court denied the motion, thus preserving the marriage equality law. Because the New York Court of Appeals is the highest court in the state, this was the last major legal threat to the Marriage Equality Act.

AAUW believes that no American should be denied the full range of civil rights and civil liberties due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Such rights and liberties include freedom from discrimination in the workplace, the right to marry, the guarantee of spousal/partner benefits, and the ability to serve one's country in uniform.

**REMEMBER TO EXERCISE YOUR VOTING RIGHTS ON NOVEMBER 6th.**

*Lynne*

## Get out and vote on November 6!

Welcome the end of all those campaign ads and don't forget to get out and exercise the hard-won right that so many of our own ancestors didn't have, not to mention the many who still don't have that right today.



## 2012/13 Executive Board

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

