



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

Were those Girl Scout mementos cool or what? While I wasn't a scout myself, many of our members were. I remember my sister in one of those uniforms, though not quite as antique as some that Pat and Donna showed us at the MAC last meeting!

This month, our regular meeting is replaced by our Holiday Dinner. The Flying W should be a great festive place for us to enjoy celebrating with one another. Please use the tear-off RSVP on the next page to respond to Bea by December 6.

After all her work on book sales and the brunch, we gave Mary Strickler the month off from the newsletter. But be assured she is gearing up for the scholarship process. Soon we will be sending letters to colleges and sprucing up our application and review processes. Anyone interested in participating can contact Mary.

This month's lit group selection is a lovely, magical story that kept me reading until late at night. The meeting will start early to continue our tradition of a holiday potluck.

Thanks to Elsie Behmer for volunteering to be our coordinator on the Running & Winning workshop committee. Mark your calendars for April 16 and let Elsie know if you are interested in participating in the planning or on the day of the event.

I hope to see you at the Flying W on December 11, and wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, December 11th, 6:30 pm

Holiday Dinner at the Flying W Airport:

Pirone's Italian Family Restaurant

60 Fostertown Road

Medford, NJ

Tuesday, December 18, 7:00 pm

Lit Group – The Night Circus by Erin

Morgenstern

Home of Rose Mary Bland

Occasions

Birthday wishes for December go out to two of our members:

Bea Chawla – December 3

Dian Hatrick – December 6



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.

Programs

Our holiday dinner will be held at at the Flying W Airport:

Pirone's Italian Family Restaurant
60 Fostertown Road
Medford, NJ

Date: Tuesday, December 11th , 6:30 PM

We will have a table next to the window overlooking the airfield. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. The menu will include:

- Choice of soup
- Salad
- Pasta
- Chicken Tuscanina
- Eggplant Parmigiana
- Shrimp and Scallops Scampi
- Choice of cake
- Coffee, tea, soda*

*Wine and other alcoholic beverages can be purchased at the bar.

Please RSVP with your check for \$25.00 by Thursday, December 6th to:

Bea Chawla
104 Landing Street
Vincentown, NJ 08088

We are looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Bea and Sylvia

Lit Group

The December selection of the Lit Group is *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern. Set in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it tells the tale of a wandering magical circus. The circus arrives without warning and appears only between sunset and sunrise. Behind the scenes, the circus is also the stage for a fierce competition between two rival magicians and their protégés. This is a game in which only one can be left standing, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of will and imagination.

The Night Circus is the debut novel of the artist Erin Morgenstern. It has been described as "Magical. Enchanting. Spellbinding. Mesmerizing."

Join us on Tuesday, December 18th at the home of Rose Mary Bland. We will be beginning our meeting early, at 7:00 p.m., in order to partake of a holiday potluck dinner as well as what promises to be another lively discussion. Please call Rose Mary at 609-714-1497 for directions and to RSVP.

Helen O'Neill and RoseMary Bland

Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland



Please RSVP with your check for \$25.00 by Thursday, December 6th to:

Bea Chawla, 104 Landing Street, Vincentown, NJ 08088

Yes, I will attend the AAUW Medford Area Holiday Dinner.

Name: _____

Number of Attendees: _____ Amount Enclosed (\$25 each) _____

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.

Breakdown of Youth Vote by Gender, Race Shows Emerging Trends

According to the [Center for Information and Research on Civil Learning and Engagement](#), youth voters tended to be more liberal on social and fiscal issues than older generations. While youth voters overall tended to support President Obama, young black women had the highest level of support for Obama while young white men had the lowest. Young white women made up the largest demographic in terms of size and turnout, but the share of youth voters of color is increasing. For the first time, Hispanic youth voters showed up in higher proportions than black youth voters.

Supreme Court to Hear Challenge to Voting Rights Act

The Supreme Court has [agreed](#) to hear a challenge to Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Section 5 requires nine states and localities in seven other states to receive federal approval before changing their voting laws, a process known as “preclearance.” Recently, federal courts have cited the Voting Rights Act in preventing all or parts of new state voting laws from going into effect in Texas, South Carolina, and Florida.

AAUW [advocates](#) vigorous protection of civil and constitutional rights, including the right to vote.



Fiscal Cliff Negotiations Begin during Lame Duck Session

Congress returned this week for its lame duck session, and [negotiations](#) to find a solution for the fiscal cliff—a series of tax and budget changes that are slated to take effect at the beginning of January 2013—started right away. President Obama met this week with labor, business, and civil rights

groups, [including AAUW](#), and was scheduled to meet with congressional leaders today. Obama held a press conference this week where he said that he aims to decrease the deficit while protecting the middle class. He repeated his position on letting the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy expire. To learn more about the fiscal cliff, read AAUW’s blog series “[Budget 101](#).”

AAUW [supports a balanced approach](#) to prevent the fiscal cliff. If the automatic spending cuts known as sequestration occur, programs supporting educational opportunities, women’s health, and civil rights would suffer massive funding cuts. In terms of the tax changes that make up the fiscal cliff, AAUW [opposes](#) an extension or expansion of the Social Security payroll tax holiday. Reducing the payroll tax rate breaches Social Security’s guaranteed funding stream and forces it to rely on general funding transfers, setting a dangerous economic and political precedent and threatening Social Security’s long-term solvency. AAUW looks forward to working with Congress and the administration to resolve the fiscal cliff in a balanced way that [promotes and protects](#) education, civil rights, and women’s rights.

States Receive Extension for Health Insurance Exchanges

The Obama administration [granted](#) an extension to states to decide whether they will create their own health insurance exchange under the Affordable Care Act. Originally, states had to make the decision by November 16. States now have until December 14 to declare their intention to establish their own exchange. States that do not indicate their intention to set up their own exchange by that date will have until February 15 to decide whether to partner with the federal government to create an exchange or relinquish the creation and control of their exchange to the government. As of Friday afternoon, [only six states](#) had not yet indicated whether they would create their own exchanges. It is estimated that 9 million people will access health insurance through an exchange when they begin running in 2014 and that the number will rise to 26 million by 2018.

AAUW [believes](#) everyone is entitled to health care that is high-quality, affordable, and easily accessible. Health care security is intrinsically tied to economic security, and this relationship is particularly true for women, who earn less than men on average and are therefore less able to afford insurance or care.

Lynne

Running and Winning

This year's *Running and Winning* workshop will be held at **Cherokee High School on April 16, 2013** for 50 high school women. All the female elected officials in the Burlington County area will be invited to attend and share their public service experiences.

The student-participants will work in teams to devise a "campaign" and develop a position on an issue about which The League of Women Voters supplies background research and information. Each team will select a candidate, create a slogan and make a poster, and help the candidate to write and to deliver a speech.

The League of Women Voters has sponsored *Running and Winning* workshops in various New Jersey towns for the last ten years. The young women who have participated are often surprised by their abilities during this time-sensitive and challenging situation.

Last year, Medford AAUW was a co-sponsor of the first workshop held in Burlington County and has donated \$100 toward the 2103 workshop. Individuals can provide support with a financial contribution or by volunteering. Medford AAUW member Elsie Behmer is coordinating with the organizers. The League of Women Voters is the lead sponsor and the Alice Paul Institute and South Jersey NOW – the Alice Paul Chapter are co-sponsors.

Elsie Behmer



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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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