



### 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

Wow—2013 already!

Our holiday dinner turned out to be quite special, what with having the restaurant all to ourselves! I sure hope they find another proprietor to take over the location.

Hop aboard! The Underground Railroad is the topic for our featured speaker who will talk about one of South Jersey's own Underground Railroad stops and the museum commemorating it. The meeting for this month is back at the MAC.

Our last book discussion was accompanied by a wonderful spread of complementary potluck dishes to celebrate the holidays. We had a great turnout and a lively discussion at Rose Mary's house. This month's lit group selection is a thought-provoking one, and quite timely in light of what's happening in our country and the world.

Mary Strickler is ramping up the scholarship process. Anyone interested in participating in the application review process or in promoting the scholarship is welcome to contact Mary. Let's get lots of candidates!

Elsie Behmer, our coordinator on the Running & Winning workshop committee, will soon be seeking volunteers to participate in the April 16 event. Please let Elsie know if you are interested in facilitating or planning.

I hope to see you at one of our January events, and wish you and your families a Happy New Year!

Mary Ann Brookes

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 pm**

**General Meeting** – Speaker Joyce Fowler, VP Lawnside Historical Society

**Topic:** Peter Mott House, Underground Railroad stop

Medford Arts Center,

18 North Main Street, Medford

**Tuesday, January 15, 7:30 pm**

**Lit Group – The Beautiful Souls, Saying No, Breaking Ranks, and Heeding the Voice of Conscience in Dark Times**, by Eyal Press

Home of Mary Ann Brookes

## Occasions

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

Betsy Cella – January 10

Mary Strickler – January 22



*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

Joyce Fowler, our speaker on January 8<sup>th</sup> is the vice-president of the Lawnside Historical Society and docent of the Peter Mott House. She will speak to us about the restoration of the Peter Mott house as a museum and its use as a station along the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a clandestine network to freedom for fugitives in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The meeting will be held at the Medford Arts Center, 18 North Main Street, Medford, at 7:30PM.

We hope to see you there.

*Bea and Sylvia*

## Lit Group

"A valentine to the human spirit," is how one reviewer described the January Lit Group selection, *Beautiful Souls, Saying No, Breaking Ranks, and Heeding the Voice of Conscience in Dark Times*, by Eyal Press. By sharing the stories of a variety of individuals who stood by their convictions when faced with moral dilemmas in dangerous situations, the author forces readers to question how they would react if they were confronted with similar choices.

We hope you will start the new year right by joining us in the discussion of this thought provoking and inspiring book which will be held at the home of Mary Ann Brookes at 7:30 pm on January 15th. Please call Mary Ann for directions and to RSVP.

*Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland*

## Scholarship & Fundraising

With the funds assured for one scholarship this year, we are turning our attention toward finding applicants for the money. That does not mean that we won't continue fund-raising in the hopes of being able to again make two awards. But it is time to focus on the scholarship process as women are making their plans for the new year.

Let me remind you of the requirements for our scholarships. It goes to a woman - not a graduating senior - who is a resident of Burlington County and enrolled - or enrolling - in at least one credit class at the college of her choice. While most of our recent recipients have been pursuing degrees at Burlington County College, there is no limit on what school she may be attending or what sort of degree she is interested in.

What you can do to help this process is talk about it! Mention it at your church or synagogue, among your friends and acquaintances, even with people you chat with at a checkout counter. You never know who might be the one who will know of a woman for whom this scholarship would be a godsend - or be such a woman herself. We will be preparing flyers which you can post or distribute. If you want one now just let me know and I will get it to you as soon as I can.

*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.*

### Grant to New Jersey Education Department Depends on Gov. Christie's Governance

The Broad Foundation, a private organization with the goal of improving public K-12 education, [offered](#) a [grant](#) of up to \$430,000 to the New Jersey Department of Education with the provision that the money could be withdrawn if Republican New Jersey Governor, Chris Christie, no longer governs the state.

### New Report Shows Slow Growth of Women Executives

In its annual [report](#) on *Fortune* 500 companies and boards, the research group Catalyst found that this past year saw little growth in the proportion of women executives. In 2011, women made up 14.1 percent of company executives, and that number increased to only 14.3 percent this year. A similarly small increase was found in the percentage of female board members, which went up only half a percentage point to 16.6 percent in 2012. The numbers are even worse for women of color, who hold only 3.3 percent of all board seats. On the bright side, a record 21 female CEOs will be leading *Fortune* 500 companies as of January 2013, and there are now two companies that have more women executives than men.

AAUW [supports](#) equality of opportunity for all women and girls and is dedicated to breaking barriers in the classroom, workplace, athletic playing field, and all other environments.

Lynne

## 2012/13 Executive Board

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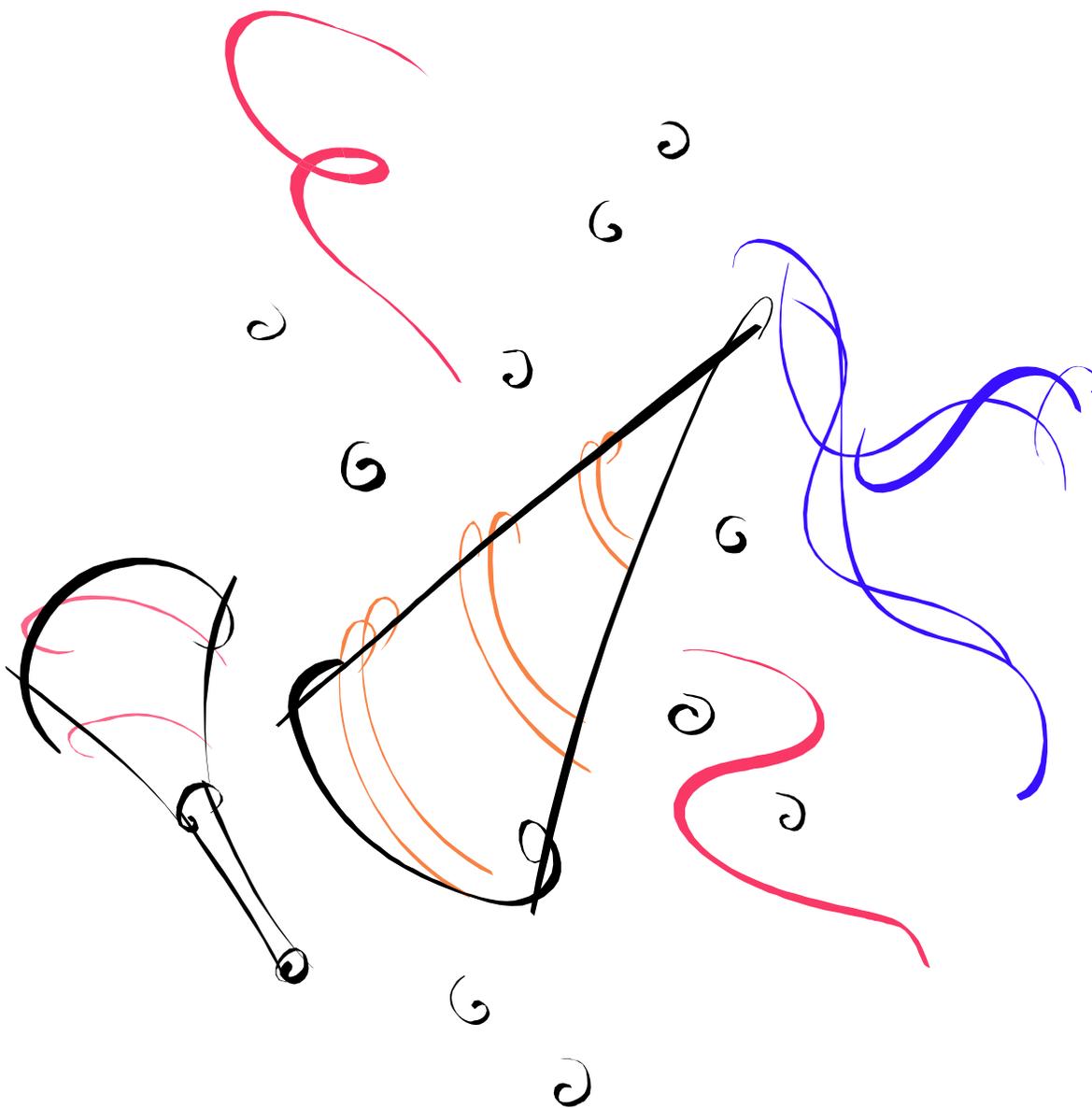
Rose Mary Bland

### Public Relations

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

