

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 Annual Dinner on May 14 featured our two scholarship winners. As usual, Jasmine did a wonderful job for us, and the food and service were great.

The highlight, though, was the two women who were selected from among the applicants to receive the awards. Yolima Perez had been there before, having won last year and still impressing us with her drive, commitment and passion for learning. Carnita Morgan, our other winner, was accompanied by several delightful members of her very supportive family. She so inspired one of her teachers, that the professor became her most ardent advocate. We look forward to hearing about the success that we know both women will achieve. See pictures and additional information on the next page.

Helen and Sylvia are working on next year's book selection and welcome suggestions. Please contact either of them if you have a reading recommendation.

June, while recovering from surgery and getting ready to travel in July, is still awaiting some dues payments, so please send them in.

Have a fantastic summer and safe travels.

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, September 10 7:30 pm

General Meeting

Medford Leas, Medford, NJ

Tuesday, September 17 7:30 pm

Literature Group

TBD

Planning Ahead:

Saturday, October 2013

Boscov's Friends & Family Day

Saturday, March 2014

Next Book & Author Brunch

Medford Leas

Occasions

Birthday wishes for the summer months go out to:

Barbara Zeuli — June 7

Carol Palermo — June 25

Mary Ann Brookes — July 19

Lila Cleaver — July 23



Congratulations to our two scholarship winners!



Carnita Morgan, 27, of Burlington, NJ, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from AAUW Medford Area branch.

Carnita, after a difficult start, established new goals for a productive life and successful career. She is currently attending Burlington County Community College, with plans to transfer to Rutgers University for her bachelor's degree in Accounting.

In addition to working at Starbucks, Carnita was selected as a member of the leadership program of Bonner AmeriCorps. As part of this program, which utilizes college students and institution of higher learning to address critical community needs, Carnita is a volunteer mentor for students at Pemberton Township's Early Childhood Learning Center.



Yolima Perez, 36, of Willingboro received a \$1,000 AAUW Medford Area branch scholarship, our first repeat winner.

From a large family in Colombia, Yolima came to the United States with her husband looking for opportunities. When her son was born with cerebral palsy, she had to quit her teaching assistant job to take care of him.

While struggling to learn English and care for her family, Yolima knew she still wanted to go to college. She was inspired by the nurses who helped care for her son, and is attending Burlington County Community College, with the goal of working as a home care nurse taking care of children.

Public Policy

Military Assault Numbers are Beyond Comprehension and Not Much Happens to the Assailants. Please contact our congressmen to get some action on stopping this outrage to women in the military. Thanks, Lynne.

Bear with us for a moment as we share some numbers:

- More than 200,000 women are in the active-duty military, making up 14.5 percent of the active-duty force.
- Nearly 3,200 cases of sexual assault in the military were reported in 2010, yet the Department of Defense estimates the actual number of assaults to be 19,000 since most cases are never reported.
- Of the sexual assault cases actually reported to military officials, **only 8 percent of the attackers in those cases were prosecuted in the military court system – compared with 40 percent of similar offenders prosecuted in the civilian court system.**

Eight percent. And even if the military justice system convicts a perpetrator of sexual assault, military commanders outside of the courtroom are still able to throw out that conviction at their own discretion.

That list isn't just a bunch numbers. There are people behind those numbers – people like Kelly Smith, who was sexually assaulted her first night in the barracks at age 19. When Smith first reported the assault, investigators interrogated her for eight hours and accused her of lying. Although her attacker eventually signed a confession, Smith says he never appeared before a court martial and instead retired with full honors and benefits.

We *have* to do something to prevent experiences like what Kelly Smith went through. We *have* to do something about those numbers.

A proposed bill in Congress called the **Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act, or STOP Act**, would create an independent, professional office in the military to investigate, and prosecute sexual assault, instead of leaving the decisions in the hands of commanders who can act at their own discretion. The STOP Act would still keep the authority over sexual assault cases in the military—just not in the hands of individual commanders who are not trained to handle these cases.

Urge your representative to cosponsor the STOP Act (H.R. 1593) and fundamentally change how sexual assault is handled in the military.

Lynne

Lit Group



The Literature Group will meet again on Tuesday, September 17th. We look forward to seeing all members, both new and old, at that time.

Please forward any suggestions you may have for discussion-worthy books for our next season. Until then, keep reading!

Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland



Scholarship & Fundraising



Our last fund-raiser for the season was Saturday, June 1st - another book sale at Indian Acres Tree Farm. This was their last event for the season. While the day was beastly hot and traffic light, we had good volunteer attendance. But it appears the book sale business is just not paying off for us so our remaining books will be donated shortly to a deserving organization.

As you will have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, we were able to award two scholarships again this year. The money that we made on Saturday will go back into the bank, as we had to 'borrow' a bit from our scholarship account to round out the funds for that second award. We also made \$40 at the Riversharks game, although, to be honest, I was rather disappointed that so few of you bought tickets to an event that ranked pretty high on my survey last year. But I still would like to thank all of you who have supported our various efforts. All in all, it has been a good year. I'd love to name all those who have helped me out, but in fear of forgetting someone, I don't think I'll try. You know who you are!

So with this season finished, it's time to be planning for the next one. Two events are scheduled. We will be holding another Book and Author Brunch at Medford Leas in March, and joining Boscov's Friends and Family Day in October. The date for that is October 22nd. If you recall, we have done this several times with Macy's. We will be selling discount passes for the day. What we would like to see is each member selling - or buying - two passes. We will also be looking for volunteers to sell passes at the store one day at the store. We do not yet have a date for this, but it will not be the day of the sale and will entail sitting at a table and selling to customers entering the store. I'll have more details for this at our first meeting in the Fall.

Mary Strickler

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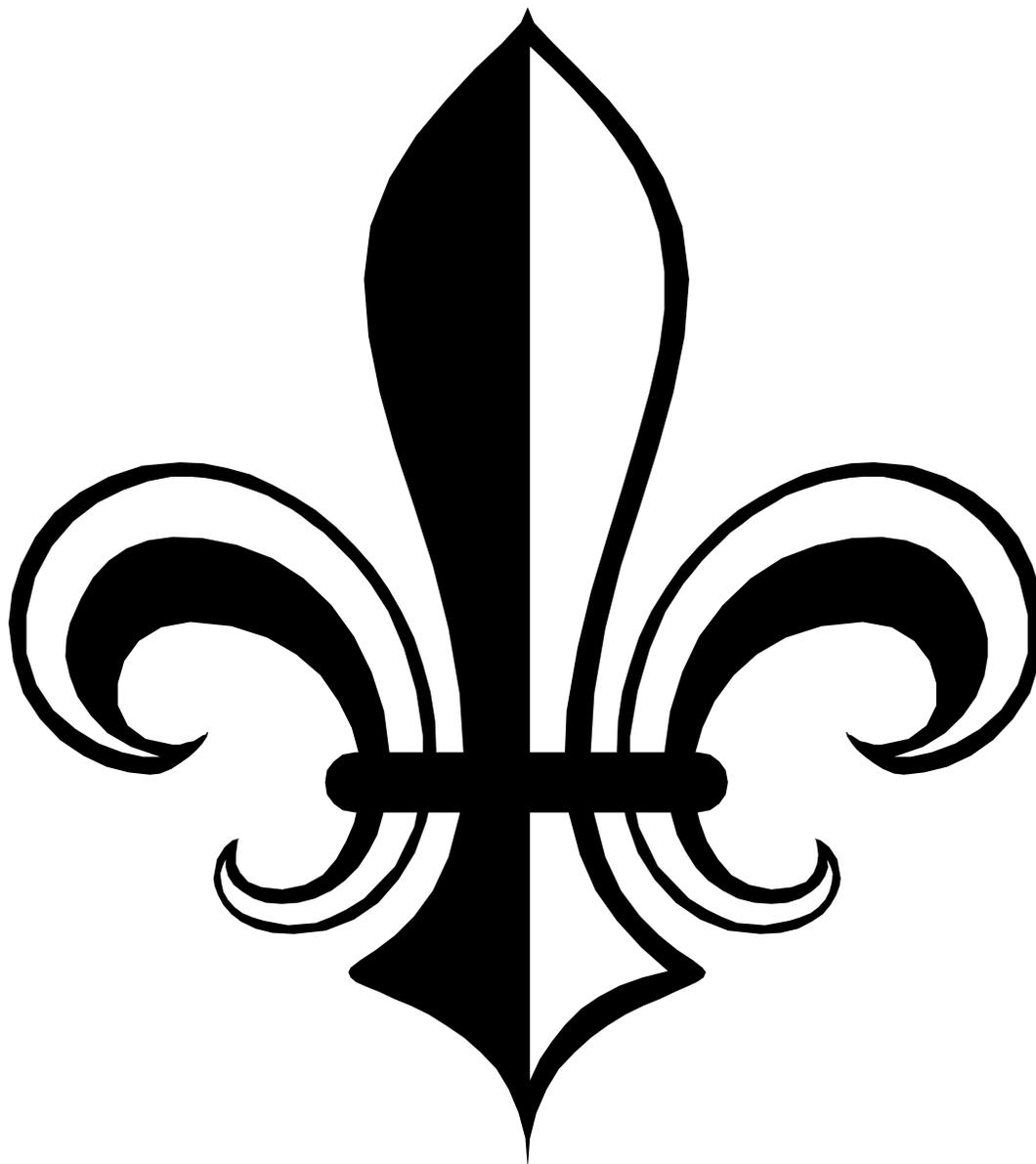
Public Relations

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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