

### 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 Boscov's day of selling discount passes worked out well for our scholarship fund and we had fun people-watching and chatting.

The AAUW NJ fall meeting in Atlantic City had representatives from each of the NJ branches. Wow! So many people working to empower women and girls! Informative presentations and workshops focused on TeenTech, the Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshops for college women, County College partnerships, Pay Equity and STEM. And the one that really opened my eyes - Who knew that our state has such a high rate of human trafficking? Very disturbing report from one of the A.C. prosecutors working cases. We'll try to line up someone from Burlington County to speak to our group on the topic and see what we can do to help.

As we gear up for the scholarship season and the upcoming Champagne Brunch, Mary's article covers a lot of ground this month, following up on her "help wanted" email. Even though Mary couldn't turn down the opportunity for a world cruise and won't be there to join us, she's getting us organized for success. If everyone does a little, no one will have to do a lot and we'll have success in no time. And we look forward to more travelogues from Mary so we can enjoy the trip vicariously!

Please see the list inside of items for the Liberty USO's **Operation Stocking Stuffers** for deployed troops. Bring along any items to the next meeting for Cid to collect.

Mary Ann Brookes

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, November 5, 2013**

**Don't forget to Vote!**

**Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 pm**

**General Meeting - Janet Giardina**, Medford Historical Society's Center for Education Linden Room, Medford Leas, Medford, NJ

**Tuesday, November 19, 7:30 pm**

**Literature Group - *The Light Between Oceans***, by M.L. Stedman  
Home of Mary Ann Brookes

### **Planning Ahead:**

**Thursday, December 5th**

**Lit Group Dinner & A Movie: *The Book Thief***  
Rave Cinema

**Saturday, March 2014**

**Next Book & Author Brunch**  
Medford Leas

## Member Greetings

**Happy Birthday** to Gladys Lowden-Metz, whose birthday is on November 3rd.



## Lit Group

Once again, the Lit Group enjoyed a lively discussion as we followed Cheryl Strayed on her journey along the Pacific Crest Trail. For our November discussion, we travel to the Western shores of Australia. Tom Sherbourne is the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes but once a season, he brings his young wife, Isabel. Years later, after several miscarriages and much heartache, Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. Isabel insists the child is a "gift from God" while Tom, the keeper of meticulous records, wants to report the incident. What follows is a haunting and emotionally complex story.

Join us on Tuesday, November 19th at 7:30 at the home of Mary Ann Brookes for what promises to be another fascinating discussion. Please call or email Mary Ann for directions.

Looking ahead, we are planning our holiday meeting on Tuesday, December 17th at 7:00 (please note change in time) at Ginger Restaurant on Wilkins Station Road in Medford. At this time, we will share a holiday meal as well as a discussion of Tina Fey's book, *BossyPants*.

Last year, the Lit Group discussed *The Book Thief*. This year, we are planning on seeing the movie. Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 5th when we travel to the Rave Cinema for dinner and a movie.

*Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland*

## Programs

November 12th – **Janet Giardina** - Medford Historical Society's Center for Education located at the Bunning Farm. She will speak about the MHS's using the Center for sharing and recording the stories that have defined the Medford area. These begin with the Lenape and other Native Americans, in whose honor all of our regional high schools have been named, as well as the various farmers, commercial, professional and spiritual activities that make up a unique and rich history.

*Sylvia Teahan and Bea Chawla*

## Public Policy

### *Call to Action:*

**Remember to exercise your right to vote on Nov. 5!**

### **States May See More Female Governors After 2014**

Women appear poised to crack the state executive branch glass ceiling in 2014, with 36 states holding [gubernatorial elections](#) that year. So far, 27 female candidates have filed in a governor's race, and 10 of those candidates are running for an open seat (i.e. the incumbent is not running). Women have historically been vastly underrepresented in the state executive office, with only five current female governors (four of whom are running for re-election).

On Monday, [Oct. 21] New Jersey [became](#) the 14th state in the country to recognize same-sex marriage. As the marriages began, Governor Chris Christie (R) [announced](#) that he was dropping his challenge to the law.

*Lynne*

### *From Sally Goodson, AAUWNJ President:*

#### **The American Association of University Women supports Raising the Minimum Wage in New Jersey**

It is unacceptable that women's income remains below the federal poverty line, even when they are working full-time. In particular, research shows that mothers are the sole--or primary--source of income in 40% percent of America's households.

The failure to raise the minimum wage keeps not only women poor but it also keeps families poor.

Women have the most to lose from the failure to raise the minimum wage since two-thirds of minimum wage workers nationwide are women.

Raising the minimum wage is a critical step in closing the gender pay gap.

AAUW supports the Federal [Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013](#), raising the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour over the next three years.

AAUW supports raising New Jersey's minimum wage one-dollar to \$8.25.

## Scholarship & Fundraising

### Boscov's Fundraising

Great news! Our sale of Boscov's discount passes has brought in \$450 with a few members still not heard from. Added to the \$18 we got from our visit to the Riversharks, this puts us nearly halfway to our goal for this season. And don't forget to use FundPhotos for any photography related holiday gifts you may be planning. For details on this, if you didn't get the handout at the last meeting, get in touch with *Cynthia Sosnowski* who will be pleased to help you out.

If you haven't responded, please send your check, made out to AAUW-Medford, to me at 105 W Maple Tree Drive, Westampton, 08060. Thanks. If you did not use the passes, you may discard them.

And a big thank you to those who sat at Boscov's and sold tickets there. That effort netted approximately half of the money. Clearly you are all great salespeople!

Now it's time to turn our attention to scholarships, and our final fund-raiser, the Book and Author Champagne Brunch, scheduled for March 1st.

### 2013 Scholarships

What we need to be doing now is ramping up our efforts to reach potential scholarship applicants and preparing to send out the invitations to the Brunch right after the new year. By now you will have received an email from me listing the tasks that need to be done. Several of you have volunteered already for some of them. Here's what is still needed:

#### Needed soon!

- \* Someone to have the scholarship applications mailed to her house. This person needs to be identified asap as her name and address must be included on the application form we are about to distribute.
- \* Someone to put out the letters to the financial aid offices of local colleges. A list of addresses exists from last year and last year's letter will need only minor changes to be used again. Of course if anyone knows names and or addresses to make these letters more effective, we'd love to know about it. This also needs to be asap.
- \* Someone to design and print a flyer for members to distribute in the community advertising the existence of the scholarship.
- ✓ *Rita Manno* will be handling newspaper articles and notices, but we all can help get the word out.

#### **This one can wait a bit.**

- Several people to get together once all the applications are in to evaluate them and determine the winner. Obviously this can't happen until after the application deadline, but we need someone to take responsibility for making it happen.

**Champagne Brunch** - while it's not until March 1st, there are still some activities to be done. Our speakers will be members of the South Jersey Writers Group. Their current book, *Tall Tales and Short Stories from South Jersey*, has been out about a year, with a second edition that they anticipate will be ready around March. It should make a great program.

#### Need to be done soon:

- \* Someone to touch base with the catering department at Medford Leas to get their latest menu and costs. *Nancy Sauer* has agreed to have the RSVPs sent to her and she will be the obvious choice to tell them the final numbers, but it would be nice if someone else could do the earlier leg work - or phone calls and emails. Nearer to the date, this person should also be responsible for making sure there is a podium with a microphone, a table for selling and signing books if the speakers plan to do this, and generally looking out for the physical arrangements for the day
- \* Someone to print the invitations. I have the blank invitations and last year's to use as a template.
- \* Several people to help Nancy stuff, stamp and sticker the envelopes with the invitations and the response cards
- \* Someone to keep in touch with the speakers, make sure they know where to be and when, to greet them on their arrival and generally act as hostess for them. This person should make themselves known to the speakers soon, but the rest of the task is obviously for later.
- \* As with the scholarship, someone to design and print flyers for members to distribute.
- ✓ *Rita Manno* will again be taking care of using the local papers for publicity.

**Tasks for later** - *but it would be great to know now who is taking them on:*

- Someone to print and frame the certificate(s) for the speakers
- Someone to purchase gift cards for them (FYI, TDBank puts their cards in nice little boxes, ready to give)
- One or two people to mix the mimosas! And ensure that enough champagne has been either donated or purchased.
- Someone to design and print the program to hand out at the Brunch - and be responsible for getting them put on the tables.
- ✓ *Lynne Poag* has agreed to take care of the centerpieces and other decorations as she has done previously.

*Thanks!*

*Mary Strickler*

## Operation Stocking Stuffers

Help the Liberty USO send holiday stockings to lift the spirits of deployed troops while they are away from their families for the holidays. Medford branch member Cid Richards is a Liberty USO volunteer who will be happy to collect any of the below-listed items for inclusion in the holiday shipment. If you are interested, just bring along the item to our next meeting, or contact Cid directly at [fishacre1@comcast.net](mailto:fishacre1@comcast.net).



### Collection Items

100 Stockings

100 DVD's

200 Cocoa Packets

100 Granola Bars

100 Hard Candy  
Packages  
(3-8 oz Packages)

100 Small Puzzle  
Books  
(5x7 or smaller)

100 Packs of Gum

100 Small Pkgs Nuts  
or Trail Mix

200 Large Candy  
Canes

## 2012/13 Executive Board

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### Literature Group

Rose Mary Bland

Helen O'Neill

### Hospitality

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Rita Manno

### Newsletter Coordinator

Mary Ann Brookes

**AAUW-Medford Area Branch**

*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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