

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

Members of the Lit Group enjoyed seeing *The Book Thief* on the big screen and dining at Coriander in early December. We thought the film makers did a great job of bringing the book to life. Our holiday dinner at Illiano's was also lots of fun, well attended despite the snowy weather, and yummy!

Many of you met my mom at a few of our events, so I wanted to let you know that she passed away on December 23, peacefully at home. Though she will certainly be missed, she was 90, ready to move on, and not having much fun here, so it was a blessing. My siblings and their families have been full partners in all the associated activities and we are a family that laughs more than cries, so we've had good family time together.

As we move into the new year (wow—2014!), we definitely gear up for Scholarship season and the Champagne Brunch. Mary Strickler got us organized and started, but will shortly be off on her latest world cruise, so I will take over coordination. Anyone who forgot to let Mary know how you want to participate for the Brunch in March or for the Scholarship process, please let me know.

I hope to see you at one of our events, and wish you all the best for the New Year!

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 pm

General Meeting - Cathi Rendfrey, Director,
The Women's Opportunity Center
Medford Leas, Rt. 70, Medford

Tuesday, January 21, 7:30 pm

Literature Group - Moll Flanders, by Daniel
Defoe
Home of Joan Slavin

Planning Ahead:

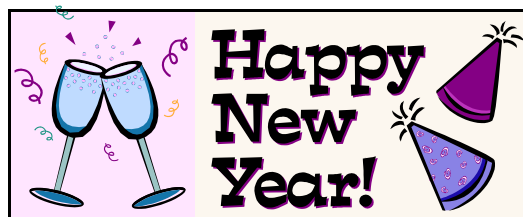
Saturday, March 1, 2014

Next Book & Author Brunch
Medford Leas

Member Greetings

Happy Birthday greetings in January go out to two of our members:

Betsy Chella, January 10
Mary Strickler, January 22



Lit Group

The Literature Group has been quite busy! In December, we traded books for film as we viewed *The Book Thief*. We had read this book last year, and enjoyed seeing the transition to the big screen. Later in the month, we gathered at Ginger for dinner and a lively discussion of Tina Fey's *Bossypants*, .

On January 21, 2014 we will be meeting at the home of Joan Slavin to discuss a classic, Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders*. Defoe presents his work as a fictional memoir of a remarkable woman. The book itself is actually a composite of real people experiencing real events in Defoe's England. Moral ambiguities, the defiance of conventional female roles and mores, and the isolated life of an individual are all topics explored within this fascinating work.

Looking ahead, we will be discussing another unconventional character, *Steve Jobs*, in February.

Please contact Joan for directions and to R.S.V.P.

Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland

Programs

On January 14th, our featured speaker is Cathi Rendfrey, Director of the Women's Opportunity Center at the YMCA in Burlington and Camden County. The program is dedicated to helping displaced homemakers. She will speak about the center and also bills currently in Trenton that could have serious impact on divorced woman in NJ. Cathi is a return speaker who was very well received in one of our prior programs.

Join us at 7:30pm on the 14th in the Linden Room at Medford Leas for another interesting and informative program.

Sylvia Teahan and Bea Chawla

Scholarship & Fundraising

I'm pleased to report that we're entering the new year, and the second half of our season, more than halfway to our goal of funding a scholarship this year. So now it's time to look for that second half.

Your first opportunity will be our champagne brunch, scheduled this year for Saturday, March 1st, again at Medford Leas. You will enjoy meeting four local women, all members of the South Jersey Writers Group who have contributed to their book, *Tall Tales and Short Stories from South Jersey*. I know you will enjoy them. Your invitation will be arriving in a few weeks. Please return it promptly.

Don't forget **FundPhotos**. The branch earns a percentage of anything you spend at their website (<http://www.fundphotos.com/>) for prints, gifts, calendars, and much more using your own photographs. See more info in Cynthia's article.

And to top off the season, or maybe to get a head start on next year, we will once again go see the **Camden Riversharks** baseball team at Campbell Field. A reservation has been made for us on Friday, June 20th. More on this later, but please mark your calendars now to save the date in that busy season. The branch earns \$5 for each ticket sold when you mention AAUW. It's always a fun evening and an easy way to make a few more dollars for the scholarship fund.

Mary Strickler

Thank you



At our December 10th Holiday dinner at Iliano's, we collected donations for a local charity. Because of the generosity of several of our members, we were able to send \$150 to the food bank located at Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Medford. Many thanks to those who contributed.

Lynne Poag

Public Policy

Call to Action:

AAUW Co-sponsors Briefing on Immigration Reform

On November 19, AAUW co-sponsored a Capitol Hill briefing about the abuse and exploitation of undocumented immigrants. Now is the time to enact immigration reform to provide the just and humane relief these immigrants deserve. Take action by [sending a message](#) to your representatives.

AAUW Cheer of the Week

This week the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, and the Social Security Administration all announced policy changes resulting from the Supreme Court decision overturning Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Social Security will begin [processing](#) some widow and widower claims by surviving members of same-sex marriages; the Department of Education will [recognize](#) all legal same-sex marriages for federal financial aid purposes; and the Department of Defense has [worked](#) with National Guards in every state to ensure all same-sex couples will be able to receive military benefits regardless of whether their state recognizes marriage equality.

AAUW Jeer of the Week

Congress is leaving town this week [12/20/13] without extending emergency unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed. It's [estimated](#) that 1.3 million out-of-work Americans will lose their unemployment insurance on December 28, and another 800,000 or so workers will fall out of the program in the months after. Happy holidays, indeed.

- Stay tuned for opportunities to take action on this issue when Congress returns in January!

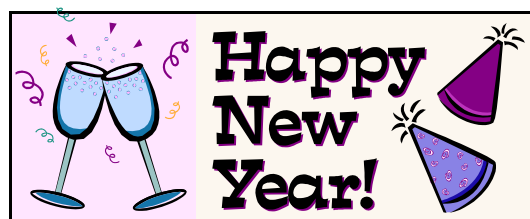
Note: As a result of Congress' inaction, New Jersey was negatively effected when emergency jobless benefits ended on 12/28/13. 79,000 unemployed New Jerseyans lost their benefits. If Congress does not extend the federal emergency jobless benefits when it reconvenes in January, it is projected that an additional 89,000 unemployed New Jerseyans will exhaust their state benefits in the first half of 2014. (*information summarized from an Associated Press article*).

Bits and Pieces

A new [report](#) from the Center for Economic and Policy Research found a substantial boost in pay and benefits for female union workers compared to their non-union counterparts. This effect is strongest for women with lower levels of formal education.

New [research](#) examining Fortune 500 Companies found women represent 17 percent of corporate board positions and only 15 percent of senior executive positions. Despite major accomplishments, such as Yahoo's Marissa Mayer topping Fortune's [40 under 40](#), General Motors [naming](#) Mary Barra as the first female CEO of the Big Three automakers, and studies showing women serving on boards is linked to higher average returns on equity and growth, women continue to remain largely absent from corporate senior decision making roles.

Lynne



FundPhotos for Scholarships



AAUW has joined FundPhotos! We hope to use our partnership with FundPhotos to help build our Scholarship Fund and you can help us do that.

FundPhotos is a web-based photo sharing, printing and photo merchandise site dedicated to supporting civic and non-profit organizations. FundPhotos offers you the same high quality photo processing and photo personalized products as the other online photo processing sites at competitive prices. The only difference is that 20% of every order will be donated to our AAUW Pinelands branch scholarship fund.

Simply go to: www.FundPhotos.com and click on the 'Join Now!' button. Then you can upload photos to share with friends and family, and when you or anyone else purchases prints or photo personalized merchandise, you can designate AAUW Pinelands Branch as your donation recipient. It's as simple as that!

If you have any questions, contact Cynthia Sosnowski, our FundPhotos AAUW Medford Area Branch group coordinator, jcsos1@comcast.net or 609.602.2762.

Cynthia

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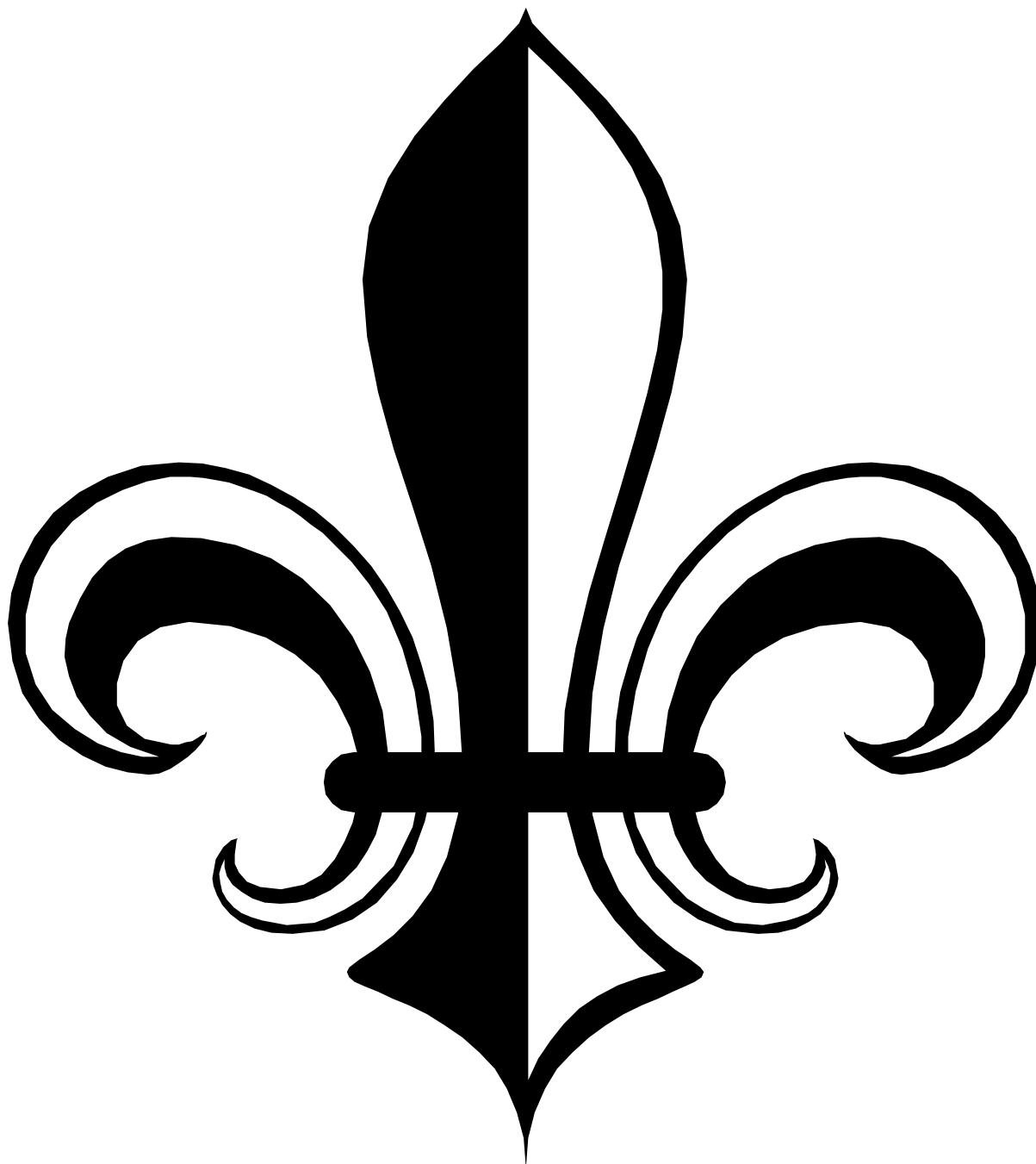
Rose Mary Bland

Public Relations

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.



PINELINES

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