

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

Hard to believe we have just two meetings left in our season! And I'm so, so happy to see the little yellow crocuses coming up in the garden!

Thanks so much to everyone who helped to make our brunch a success. Now we prepare for our scholarship award in May.

We also have officer transitions, as many of our current board members are finishing up their 2nd two-year term.

April 8th will be a busy meeting, so come early. In addition to our scheduled program with Rebecca Reynolds, we will have voting on new officers and a decision to make on sponsorship for Medford Leas' arbor program. And don't forget to bring an item for our branch basket for the AAUWNJ Annual Meeting. Mary Switzer has graciously offered to assemble for us.

We can also get a report from Dian, Cid and any other members who participate in this year's Running & Winning program, which happens to also be on April 8. The ladies should arrive at our meeting fresh from an exhilarating day with the young women and political figures!

Mary Ann Brookes

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 pm

General Meeting - Rebecca Reynolds, assistant dean for the Mary I. Bunting program at Douglas Residential College, on **The Bunting program for non-traditional female college students**

Medford Leas, Rt. 70, Medford

Tuesday, April 8, Running & Winning

Burlington Township High School

Tuesday, April 15, 7:30 pm

Literature Group - My Beloved World, by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor
Home of Nancy Sauer

Planning Ahead:

Friday, June 20, 7:05 pm AAUW at the Riversharks

Campbell Field

Sign up now!

Member Greetings

Happy Birthday greetings this month go out to **Rose Mary Bland**, celebrating on April 23



Lit Group

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor tells the story of her incredible journey from a Bronx housing project to the highest court in the land with total openness and candor. Her autobiography, *My Beloved World*, describes how she was able to realize her childhood dream through a combination of hard work, determination and, most importantly, belief in herself.

Join us at 7:30 pm on April 15th at Nancy Sauer's home to share your reaction to this powerful and inspiring memoir.

Please call Nancy at 609-654-7657 for directions and to RSVP.

Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland

Scholarship & Fundraising

Our champagne brunch on March 1st was a lot of fun, with Medford Leas' usual great food and our interesting speakers from the South Jersey Writers Group. While the final tally isn't in yet, it's likely we hit our scholarship funding target.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the event!

Next up is the scholarship selection. Please advise Mary Ann Brookes if you want to participate on the review committee that will be meeting this month. Although applications have been slow to arrive, we're hoping for some good candidates again.

Don't forget the **Camden Riversharks AAUW night** at Campbell Field. The date is Friday, June 20th. Tickets are only \$11 and 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

Programs

April 8th – Rebecca Reynolds, assistant dean for the Mary I. Bunting program at Douglas Residential College. She will speak to us about the Bunting program for non-traditional female college students.

Join us at 7:30pm on the 8th in the Linden Room at Medford Leas for another interesting and informative program.

Sylvia Teahan and Bea Chawla

NJ Annual AAUW Meeting

Saturday April 12 - 9am until 2pm. Sally promises that the program will be exciting, fun-filled, and informative, with a spectacular breakfast and lunch.

There are two locations, one north and one south, from which to choose:

- either Jamesburg at the Forsgate Country Club (\$25) or at Resorts Hotel/Casino in Atlantic City (\$15).

Please bring donations for our branch basket to our 4/8 meeting.

Mary Switzer will be attending the AAUW NJ Annual Meeting on April 12, as a member of the state board as well as representing Medford Area Branch. She has volunteered to put together a basket for our branch if we can supply some items to fill it up.

The "theme" for the basket is eclectic, so anything will be welcome. Bring your items along to our April 8 meeting at Medford Leas. Could be a great way to re-gift that lovely item you got for Christmas that just doesn't have the right place in your home!

Public Policy

Women's Health Care Access at Stake in Supreme Court Case

On Tuesday, March 25 the Supreme Court will review [challenges](#) to the contraceptive coverage requirement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The cases are brought by Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood will ultimately determine whether employers may refuse to provide coverage for contraception based on their personal religious principles.

While these two secular, for-profit organizations argue for religious freedom, those against the law suit argue that a woman has a right to use her insurance plan to access contraception. Lisa Maatz, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations [published](#) an article arguing that a for-profit, public organizations' purpose is not to further their own religious values. AAUW believes bosses shouldn't have a say in employees' private lives and health decisions.

AAUW Cheer of the Week

In [remarks](#) this week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said the Senate will likely hold a procedural vote on the AAUW-supported Paycheck Fairness Act in April in conjunction with an attempt to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. A recent White House [report](#) found that raising the minimum wage would narrow the gender wage gap by nearly five percent.

- On Wednesday, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) announced [plans](#) to vote on the bipartisan National Women's History Museum Act (H.R. 863) sometime this year. The legislation creates a commission that will provide recommendations for the development of a National Women's History Museum located on the National Mall. AAUW [supports](#) this legislation.

AAUW Jeer of the Week

Rush Limbaugh struck again this week, [mocking](#) the idea of a National Women's History Museum. He said that women already have museums – they're "called malls." Limbaugh's comments were inspired by this week's announcement that the House of Representatives will vote this year on bipartisan legislation to create a commission to study the possibilities of a National Women's History Museum on the National Mall.

Call to Action:

Two Senators signed on to co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act this week: Senators Mark Pryor (D-AR) and Cory Booker (D-NJ). That makes 54 co-sponsors, the most we've ever had, and it's because of AAUW members' hard work. Are your senators co-sponsors? Find out and take action [here](#).

Lynne

On the Web

Follow up: [Alimony in New Jersey](#).

During our January program, Cathi Rendfrey reported on changes in alimony rules being considered. Here's an editorial on the various alimony bills in the state legislature.

http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/03/a_fair_approach_to_alimony_editorial.html

Thanks to Cid Richards for submitting.

One Billion Rising 2014



For this year's **One Billion Rising** event on February 14, a branch delegation met with congressional candidate Aimee Belgard to discuss equal pay, alimony and other topics of interest to AAUW.

Pictured above at Aimee's Willingboro office: Cid Richards (thanks for coordinating!), Linda Chamberlain, Aimee Belgard, June Ramondetta and Mary Ann Brookes.



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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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