

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

The scholarship season is upon us and our award dinner is scheduled for May 13. Come join us to meet our two winners, one of whom is a return winner.

We will also induct our new board members at that meeting. See the results of our vote inside if you weren't at the last meeting.

Dian and Cid participated in this year's Running & Winning program on April 8. They reported it was another successful event at engaging the young women and political figures. See Cidnie's pic below.

Finally, please get out the checkbook now while you're thinking about it and get in your 2014 dues to June Ramondetta. Thanks!!

Mary Ann Brookes



Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, May 13, 6:30 pm

Annual Scholarship Award Dinner & Officer Installation

Jasmine Restaurant, Sharp's Run Plaza, Rt. 70, Medford

Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 pm

Literature Group - *Amy and Isabel*, by Pulitzer

Prize winner Elizabeth Strout
Home of Bea Chawla

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

Campbell Field

Sign up now!

July 31 - AAUW Annual Dues Needed

Write the check now!

Member Greetings

Happy Birthday to:

Mary Switzer, May 25

Marjean Ingalls, May 28

Carol Vahlstrom, May 28

Lynne Poag, May 30



Lit Group

In her stunning first novel, *Amy and Isabel*, Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout evokes a teenager's alienation from her distant mother - and a parent's rage at the discovery of her daughter's secrets.

In most ways, Amy and Isabelle are like any mother and her 16 year old daughter, a fierce mix of love and loathing exchanged in every glance. And eating, sleeping, and working side by side in the gossip-ridden mill town of Shirley Falls doesn't help matters. But when Amy is discovered behind the steamed-up windows of a car with her math teacher, the vast and icy distance between mother and daughter becomes unbridgeable. With profound insight, Elizabeth Strout tells the story not only of a mother and daughter, but also of an entire town.

Please join us on Tuesday, May 20th at 7:30 at the home of Bea Chawla for a discussion of this often witty and insightful book. Call or email Bea for directions and to RSVP.

Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland

Scholarship & Fundraising

While the number of applications was lower than hoped, our review process did allow us to identify two excellent candidates to whom to award our scholarships this year. One is a returning awardee, **Wandy Rivera**, and a new winner, **Valerie Tomaszewski**. Come and meet both of these inspiring women at our May 13 award dinner.

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. See the flyer or contact me or Mary Ann Brookes to get tickets.

Mary Strickler

May Meeting New Officers and Scholarship Award Dinner

Date: Tuesday, May 13th, 2014

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Jasmine Restaurant
Sharp's Run Plaza
Rt. 70, Medford

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Menu :

- * Choice of Won Ton, Hot and Sour or Egg Drop Soup
- * Egg Roll or Vegetable Spring Roll
- * Triple Delight (Chicken, Beef and Shrimp)
- * Chicken and Mixed Vegetables in Black Bean Sauce
- * Pad Thai with Shrimp and Tofu
- * Eggplant with Baby Bok Choi in Garlic Sauce
- * White, Brown and Vegetable Fried Rice
- * Tea
- * Fortune Cookies

Please send check for **\$30.00** by **May 10th** made out to **AAUW - Medford Area Branch** to:

Bea Chawla
104 Landing Street
Vincentown, NJ 08088



Public Policy

Call to Action:

April 11, 2014--**The Supreme Court just doesn't get the modern workplace.**

First it essentially tells [Lilly Ledbetter](#) that her employer had discriminated against her long enough to make it legal. Then it tells [Betty Dukes](#) that she can't team up with other co-workers to take on Wal-Mart for discrimination. And now it's telling American workers that their bosses may not actually be their bosses.

Last year, the court issued a 5-4 [decision](#) that created an artificial distinction between different types of "supervisors," thereby letting employers off the hook for harassment by lower-level supervisors. Here's the big problem: The court's decision doesn't reflect how people actually work. Millions of workers are overseen by other employees who don't have the authority to hire or fire them, yet still shape their day-to-day work experience by making their schedules, giving them time off, or assigning projects and tasks. This wrong-headed court decision virtually gives a green light to sexual harassment as long as it doesn't come from "the boss."

Under that 2013 ruling, *Vance v. Ball State University*, this overseeing type of employee is now classified as a co-worker, making it more difficult to hold employers legally accountable for sexual harassment perpetuated by those employees — no matter how much power they might have over other workers. This decision is particularly problematic for women: A national [poll](#) found that 25 percent of women have experienced workplace sexual harassment, as have 1 in 10 men.

Think about your own experiences at work. You knew who set your schedule and gave you assignments, but did you know who could make the decision to fire you? Was it your direct boss? Was it the human resources manager? Was it the company president who you met only once? Under the court's standard, if your boss doesn't have the power to fire you, she or he isn't considered your "supervisor." And that's just silly.

AAUW supports congressional action to rectify this wrong decision. The Fair Employment Protection Act would restore longstanding workplace protections the *Vance* ruling took away. You can tell your representatives to support this legislation [today](#).

Minimum Wage Vote

The U.S. Senate is back in Washington, D.C., today, and they don't seem to be wasting any time: As early as Wednesday, senators will take a procedural vote on whether to raise the federal minimum wage.

[Let's not waste any time either: Contact your senators today and urge them to support a minimum wage increase!](#)

2009 was the last time the federal minimum wage went up. With today's minimum wage stuck at \$7.25 per hour, someone who works 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, will take home less than \$20,000 annually, meaning they and their family would live below the poverty line.

It wasn't always this way, and it doesn't have to be. The bill that the Senate will consider tomorrow would gradually increase the minimum wage until it reaches \$10.10. [Urge your senators to support this legislation!](#)

Lynne

Time For Annual Dues

National, state and local dues remain the same as last year. Our annual dues are therefore \$65.00. (\$49 for national, \$10 for state and \$6 for our local branch).

Please bring your payment to the next meeting or mail to:

AAUW Medford Area
c/o June Ramondetta
Treasurer
119 Bracken Road
Medford, NJ 08055

If you need to supply new or additional application info, please contact June or download the pdf form from our website at:

<http://medford-nj.aauw.net/files/2013/06/ApplicationDuesForm.pdf>

New Branch Officer Slate

Along with our current board members, below are the incoming officers and chairpersons based on the election results from our April meeting. The new assignments will take effect officially as of July 1, 2014.

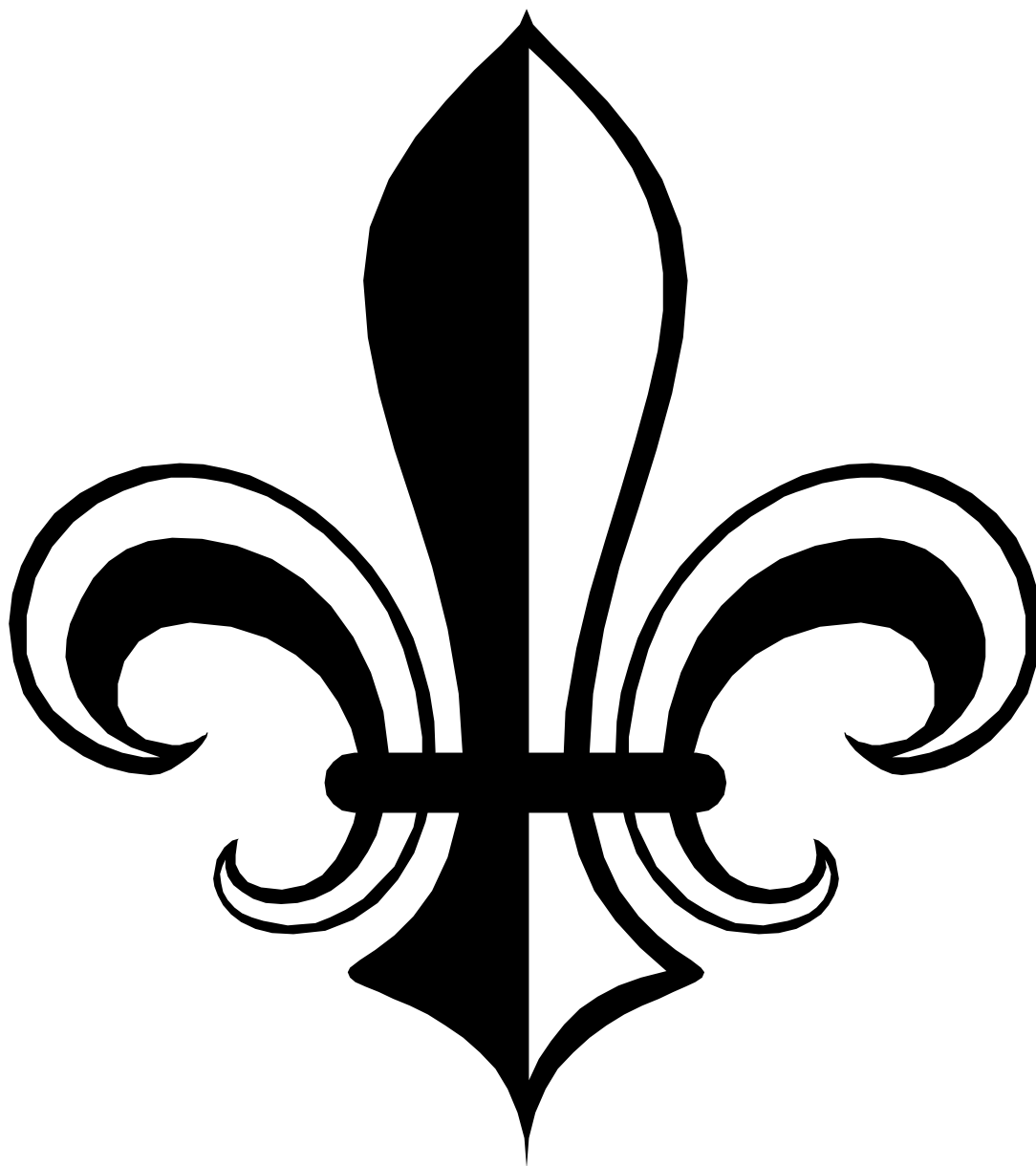
Congratulations and Thanks to all for your support and for all that you do!

2012/14 Executive Board
President Mary Ann Brookes
VP Membership Lila Cleaver
VP Programs Bea Chawla, Sylvia Teahan
Treasurer June Ramondetta
Secretary
Public Policy Lynne Poag
Legal Advocacy Fund Tina Wetterau
Scholarship & Fundraising Mary Strickler
Literature Group Rose Mary Bland, Helen O'Neill
Hospitality Rose Mary Bland
Public Relations Rita Manno
Newsletter Coordinator Mary Ann Brookes

2014/16 Executive Board
Co-Presidents Elsie Behmer, Helen O'Neill
Co-VPs Membership Lila Cleaver, June Ramondetta
Co-VPs Programs Cid Richards, Lynne Poag, Dian Hattrick
Treasurer Mary Ann Brookes
Secretary Bea Chawla
Public Policy Lynne Poag
Legal Advocacy Fund Tina Wetterau
Scholarship Cynthia Sosnowski
Literature Group Co-Chairs Helen O'Neill, Rose Mary Bland
Hospitality Rose Mary Bland
Public Relations Mary Strickler
Newsletter Coordinator Mary Ann Brookes

NOTE: As discussed in our meeting, note that Fundraising has been split off from Scholarship, as we currently run mainly the one event, the Book & Author Brunch. As they replace usual monthly meetings, the brunch and dinner events will be coordinated under Programs.

**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

