

### 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*

## Co's Column

***Introducing and welcoming our new co-presidents, Elsie Behmer and Helen O'Neill***

### Strangers in Our Midst

Helen and Elsie, we are the new co-presidents, but who are we? Our bios will tell some facts, but the real truth is that we are two excited and nervous volunteers who are interested in seeing our little chapter prosper and grow.

We look forward to working with you for a year of stimulating programs, delicious dinners, a terrific book and author brunch, raising some money, awarding some scholarships, maybe adding some new faces and, best of all, getting to know you better.

*Helen & Elsie*

P.S. The Brunch date is set for March 21! It's never too early to start thinking about whom to invite. And a ticket makes a great gift!

**Editor's Note:** Please see bios for Elsie and Helen inside this edition of *Pinelines*, thanks to June Ramondetta and Lila Cleaver, our co-VP's for Membership.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, September 9, 7:15 pm**  
**General Meeting - How Recent Supreme Court Decisions Impact Women**  
Linden Room, Medford Leas, Medford

**Tuesday, September 16, 7:30 pm**  
**Literature Group - *The Round House*** by Louise Erdich  
Home of Helen O'Neill

**Sunday, October 12, 2pm-4pm & Sunday, October 12, 2pm-4pm**  
***Boscov's Friends Helping Friends***

#### ***Planning Ahead:***

**Saturday, March 21, 2015, 11:30 am**  
**Book & Author Brunch** - Patti Sheehy, author of *The Boy Who Said No*

## Member Greetings

***Birthday Greetings in September go to:***



**Rita Manno**, 11th

**Cynthia Sosnowski**, 16th

**Tricia Reace**, 26th

***Get well wishes*** to former member **Phyllis Brown**. Friends can send cards to her at 1706 Squirrel Rd, Marlton, NJ 08053.

## Programs

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of the season. Join us on September 9th at 7:30 PM in the Linden Room at Medford Leas to kick off our new year. Please bring a friend who may be interested in joining our organization. We need to actively recruit new members!

After spending some time catching up with friends, we would like to center a discussion around the topic of recent Supreme Court Decisions and how they affect women. Listed below are two rulings from 2014, cited from the New York Times, June 30, 2014. You may want to do a little internet research to clarify your positions/arguments before the meeting.

We are sure you'll enjoy many of our upcoming programs: The Bee Man in October, Mary Strickler's Around-the-World cruise travelogue in January, an interactive memoir-writing activity in February. Stay tuned for more information! We look forward to welcoming everyone.

*Dian Hattrick, Lynne Poag, and Cid Richards  
Program co-chairs*

*P.S. Also check out this article by AAUW's Lisa Maatz on the Hobby Lobby suit —>*



### Burwell v. Hobby Lobby

**THE DECISION** The court ruled that corporations controlled by religious families **cannot be required to pay** for contraception coverage for their female workers.

**PREVIOUSLY** In 2012, the court **upheld the centerpiece** of the Affordable Care Act by a 5-to-4 vote.

**OUTLOOK** The case **may affect** many other kinds of religious objections from businesses.

### McCullen v. Coakley

**THE DECISION** The court ruled that buffer zones around abortion clinics in Massachusetts **violated the First Amendment.**

**PREVIOUSLY** In 2000, the court **upheld similar buffer zones** in a case from Colorado.

**OUTLOOK** The court **left open the possibility** that states may use other methods to address harrassment and violence at clinics.

**Programs Note:** Members are requested to please arrive for our general meetings by **7:15**. We are changing our format slightly this year to start our speakers promptly at 7:30 and want to make sure there is enough time for catching up before and branch business afterward! Thanks for your cooperation!

<h2 style="text-align: center;">2014/16 Executive Board</h2>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Co-Presidents</b> Elsie Behmer, Helen O'Neill</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Co-VPs Membership</b> Lila Cleaver, June Ramondetta</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Co-VPs Programs</b> Cid Richards, Lynne Poag, Dian Hattrick</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Treasurer</b> Mary Ann Brookes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Secretary</b> Bea Chawla</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Policy</b> Lynne Poag</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Legal Advocacy Fund</b> Tina Wetterau</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scholarship</b> Cynthia Sosnowski</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Literature Group Co-Chairs</b> Helen O'Neill, Rose Mary Bland</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hospitality</b> Rose Mary Bland</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Relations</b> Mary Strickler</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Newsletter Coordinator</b> Mary Ann Brookes</p>

## Introducing our new branch Co-Presidents

### Elsie Behmer



Elsie Behmer was born in New Jersey, lived for a time in New York City, and has traveled widely around the world. Her most exotic trip was to Tibet, but she has also taken a long trip from Stockholm to northern Sweden

(above the Arctic Circle) by train, visited France many times, and currently calls London her favorite city.

Elsie holds a BA and MA in Journalism from the Newhouse School at Syracuse, and an MBA in Marketing/Management from the Wharton School.

Elsie has been a journalist for a daily newspaper in Asbury Park and has held various jobs including public relations, marketing (Tylenol), and management positions as president of a small consumer marketing agency based in NYC with clients at Procter & Gamble, such as Crest, Always, Clearasil, Noxzema and others. When she retired, she moved on to teach writing at BCC, did some free-lance writing, and currently works as an ESL teacher with County Library and privately. This work gives her the chance to know people from other countries and learn about their worlds.

Elsie lives at Medford Leas and with her two Welsh terriers: Bess and Bob-the-Dog. She is a bridge player, a Board member of the United Way of Burlington County (now of the Greater Philadelphia Area) and has just retired as Chair of Community Impact with United Way.

Elsie is also a Rolling Stones fan and very interested in World War I. When asked what she enjoys most, Elsie replied, "My absolute favorite thing is to be in a city."

*June Ramondetta*

### Helen O'Neill

Helen O'Neill was born in New York City, and grew up in Southern Connecticut. She attended Simmons College in Boston and graduated with a B.S. in Clinical Psychology. Helen also holds an M.Ed. degree from Boston University in Special Education and did post graduate work at Glassboro College (now Rowan) towards certification as a Learning Consultant. She taught special education classes in Virginia, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania before becoming a "stay-at-home mom" for ten years.

Helen first became a member of the Bucks County AAUW while teaching in Pennsylvania and soon joined their Literature Group. She has always been an avid reader and has generously shared her interest by serving as the current co-chairperson of our local Medford Branch's Literature Group. When her children were old enough to be full-time students, Helen re-entered the work force as a member of the Child Study Team in Deptford, New Jersey. There she was a Learning Consultant for over 20 years and retired five years ago.

Retirement has given Helen an opportunity to pursue several interests. She enjoys traveling and has visited most of western Europe, from England and Ireland to Greece and most places in-between. She has also spent time in the Cayman Islands, Costa Rico, and China. Art is another interest of Helen's and she has taken drawing courses at Perkins and also the MAC close to home. Interestingly, for many years, both Helen and her husband volunteered in the "Guest Services" department at Virtua Hospital, in Voorhees, meeting with patients and assisting to make their stay comfortable.

Helen is a busy person but when she finds time to relax, she enjoys reading, movies both current and classic and music of the 60's and 70's. The O'Neills' greatest joy is their five grandchildren, ranging in age from 18 months to 10 years old. She and her husband often babysit; they particularly enjoy sharing fun days at Johnson Farm, Paws, and nearby parks.

*June Ramondetta*

## Lit Group

The Literature Group has once again developed a list of books which should prove both interesting and provocative. We begin with our September selection, *The Round House* by Louise Erdich. One of the most revered novelists of our time, Louise Erdich has been a brilliant chronicler of Native-American life. In *The Round House*, Ms. Erdich transports readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. It is an exquisitely told story of a boy on the cusp of manhood who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever transforms his family. Riveting and suspenseful, *The Round House* is a page-turning masterpiece of literary fiction - at once a powerful coming-of-age story, a mystery, and a tender, moving novel of family, history and culture. *The Round House* won the National Book Award for fiction. Please join us on **Tuesday, September 16th, at 7:30**, at the home of Helen O'Neill for what promises to be a most stimulating evening. Please call or email Helen to R.S.V.P. and for directions.

Looking ahead, our October selection will be *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou. As our former poet laureate, it seems only fitting that we should visit the early life of Maya Angelou as told in her poetic and powerful memoir. Both touching and comic, this book portrays the courage, dignity and endurance of the small, rural community in which she spent most of her early years in the 1930's.

During the 2014-2015 calendar year we will also be reading *Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton, *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman, *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Christina Henríques, *The Boy Who Said No* by Patti Sheehy (our Book and Author guest speaker), *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver, *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, and *The Gold Finch* by Donna Tartt. Hope to see you all there.

Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland

## Fundraising

Boscov's will be holding their *Friends Helping Friends* sale on Tuesday, October 21st. As part of our scholarship fundraising efforts, we will be selling passes again this year. Last year this effort netted the scholarship fund nearly \$500. Let's try to do that again! Here's how it works.

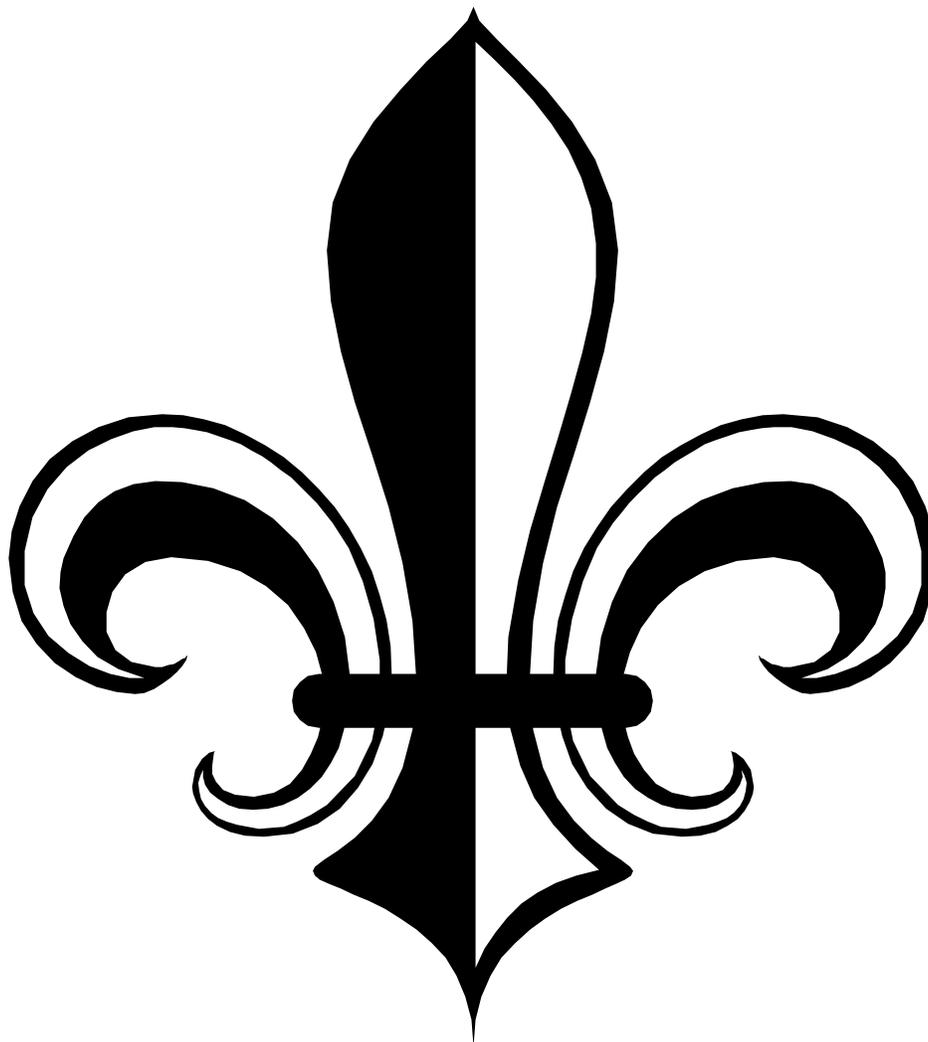
The passes cost \$5 each and provide the shopper with a 25% discount on almost everything in any of the local Boscov's stores on that day. The few exceptions to the discount are printed on the pass. All the money collected goes to us. The pass can be used over and over all day so there is no need to gather all your purchases before checking out. The pass also includes a tear-off that offers chances to win a number of prizes.

We are asking each member to purchase two passes, although of course we will be delighted if any of you would like more. You can use one yourself and sell the other(s). They have been used as thank-you's to friends, tips to people who have served, or just gifts. They will be available at both the September and October meetings for either checks or cash. Those who are not able to be at the September meeting will be contacted by mail.

We also have been given the opportunity to sell passes at the Moorestown store at two times, **Sunday, October 12th** between 2 and 4pm and **Sunday, October 19th** at the same hours. We will be looking for two or three volunteers for those times. Those of you who did this last year reported that it was a fun experience. In addition to raising money, it offered an opportunity to talk about AAUW and about our Branch. You can sign up at the meetings or let me know at either (609) 267-1665 or mstrickl@att.net. Thanks!

Mary Strickler

**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.*



# PINELINES

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