

**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**

What ever happened to the Equal Rights Amendment?

We've just assumed that the ERA is as dead as the dodo. Well, maybe not, according to [equalrightsamendment.org](http://equalrightsamendment.org).



By the June 30, 1982 deadline, the ERA had been ratified by 35 states, three states short of the 38 required to put it into the Constitution.

Beginning in 1994 with introduction of the first three-state strategy bill in Congress, ERA advocates have been pursuing two different routes to ratification.

- The traditional process outlined in Article V of the Constitution;
- Ratification in three more of the 15 state legislatures that did not ratify originally.

Hollywood filmmaker Kamala Lopez is aiming for a late 2014 release of her documentary on the ERA and women's rights "Equal Means Equal."

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Wondering what young feminists are up to? Plenty according to two websites: [endrapeoncampus.org](http://endrapeoncampus.org) and [feministing.com](http://feministing.com).

Feministing, founded in 2009, does activist outreach with community groups and on campuses.

*Helen & Elsie*

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Tuesday, October 14, 7:15 pm**

**General Meeting - Gerald Kiyak, "The Bee Man from Indian Mills,"**

Linden Room, Medford Leas, Medford

**Tuesday, October 21, 7:30 pm**

**Literature Group - I Know Why the Caged**

**Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou

Home of Rose Mary Bland

**Sunday, October 12, 2pm-4pm &**

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**Boscov's Friends Helping Friends**

**Sunday, Oct 19, 3pm—Monday, Oct 20, 1pm**

AAUW-NJ Fall Focus at Resorts in Atlantic City, NJ

**Planning Ahead:**

**Saturday, March 21, 2015, 11:30 am**

**Book & Author Brunch** - Patti Sheehy, author of *The Boy Who Said No*

**Member Greetings**

**Happy Birthday to two members who share a birthday on October 27th :**



**Nancy Sauer** and  
**Marcia Shearer**

## Programs

**Gerald Kiyak, "The Bee Man from Indian Mills,"** became interested in bees as a way of adding more pollinators to his garden. In 2008 after taking courses through the Rutgers Extension Division and purchasing beekeeping equipment, he started with two hives in his apiary. Today he is a full-time beekeeper and has grown his apiary to over 20 colonies of bees, most of whom live on a vegetable farm in Atco, NJ.

He and his wife Ann harvest and bottle honey that they sell at farm markets, craft fairs, and flea markets throughout South Jersey. During the off-season, he makes natural beeswax candles, and in 2014 he was awarded "Best Novelty Candle" prize at the NJ State Honey Show in Trenton.

Mr. Kiyak looks forward to sharing his expertise and experiences with us on Tuesday, October 14.

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### **Monthly Collection for Charity**

This month we are collecting non-perishable food items, gift cards, and/or checks for St. Vincent De Paul Society in Medford. Please bring your items to the meeting, and the program chairpersons will deliver them. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thanks for your generosity!

*Dian Hattrick, Lynne Poag, and Cid Richards*

## AAUW-NJ Fall Focus

### **"Celebrate. . . Collaborate. . . Create"**

Please join us for AAUW-NJ Fall Focus at Resorts in Atlantic City, NJ on Sunday Afternoon, October 19, 3pm—7pm and Monday, October 20, 8am-1pm.

Registration deadline for the group hotel rate (\$55single /double) is October 1. See <http://aauw-nj.aauw.net/> website for details. Every branch needs its president / co-presidents to be there.

*Mary Switzer*

## Lit Group

The Lit Group season started with a wonderful discussion of *The Round House* at the home of Helen O'Neill. This month's selection, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, was chosen in order to refresh the group's memory of why the author's message has been so compelling all around the world and why she will be sorely missed.

In the first and most famous of her six autobiographies, Maya describes her early life and her transition from a child overcome by insecurity to a young woman of confidence.

We will meet to share our thoughts regarding this book at the home of Rose Mary Bland at 7:30 pm on October 21st.

Please call Rose Mary to RSVP or for directions.

*Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland*



## Fundraising

Don't forget to sell those Boscov's passes - only \$5 each and we get to keep all of that for our scholarship fund!

We've asked each member to sell two. And, of course, we would be thrilled if all of you could sell more. If you haven't gotten any yet, please be patient. I will be getting them to you shortly. I will also have more to give you at the October meeting.

And thank you to all of you who have already paid for two!

*Mary Strickler*

## Monthly Member Bio

### *Mary Ann Brookes*

Our Past President, Mary Ann Brookes, has led an interesting and well-traveled life. She was born in Norristown, PA, and lived in Philadelphia, Delaware, and Singapore, before moving to Medford! Her travels, both for work and pleasure have taken her around the world to places as near as Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas, and as far away as U.K., Italy, Germany, Austria, France and all the way to Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.



Mary Ann describes herself as a person who enjoys taking on new challenges. She especially enjoys the cyclical nature of project work with the concentrated (sometimes frenzied!) demands of deadlines, followed by a breather before moving on to something new. She likes to build new things or fix broken things, and especially enjoys making organizations work well. She was educated at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, where she earned BBA, and then went on to earn a MBA, at Drexel University. She has worked as an Accountant, Technology Manager, Customer Service Manager, Process Re-engineer, and is currently a Project Manager/Consultant. In addition, Mary Ann serves as Treasurer at one of Medford's local lake communities, and this year, has taken on the role of AAUW Treasurer for our Medford Branch.

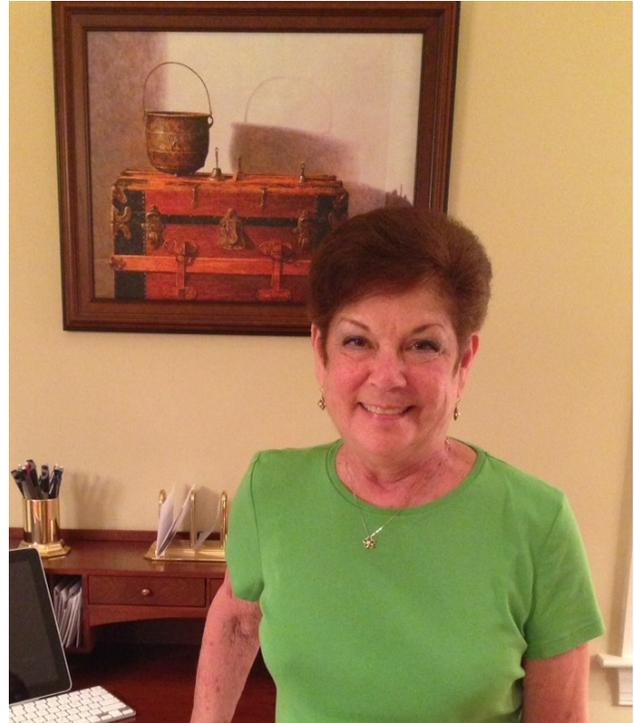
Mary Ann lives with her 20-lb. Tibetan Terrier named Ziva, where she enjoys reading, computer games, dog-walking, model railroad building, swimming, playing tennis, and watching football. Her music collection ranges from Abba and Aerosmith to Shania Twain and ZZ Top, with some classical, big band, light jazz, show tunes and reggae thrown in. Her other interests include training at the gym, nutrition & health, sports cars, yoga, taking walks on the beach (preferably with Ziva,) and relaxing with a glass of wine and a good book.

With so many interests, Mary Ann is fun to talk with, and a delight to know. (BTW, her favorite color is purple... don't ask her "why," she has no idea!)

*June Ramondetta & Lila Cleaver*

***Co-President Helen O'Neill, whose picture was missing from last month's bio***

### *Helen O'Neill*



## Seen on the Web

[Can Women Fix Capitalism?](#) Check out the McKinsey article to see if this trend in thinking is likely to become a reality.

[HeForShe Campaign launched](#) by Harry Potter star and UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador, Emma Watson, at U.N. Speech. The goal of the campaign is motivating men and boys to end gender inequality. Watson, 24, spoke eloquently about the lingering misconceptions surrounding feminism.

[Realizing the power of talented women](#) In another McKinsey article, eBay Inc. conducted a global gender-diversity survey on the attitudes and experiences of its top 1,700 leaders to check the results of their three-year-old a journey to bring more women into its top ranks. It found that commitment, measurement, and culture outweigh a business case and HR policies.

## Public Policy

And just like that, they're gone.

Just two weeks after returning from their August recess, members of Congress are now headed back to their districts with no plans to return to our nation's capital until after the 2014 elections. Yes, you read that right.

By some accounts, Congress did a lot in the last two weeks – the Senate debated a constitutional amendment to enact meaningful campaign finance reform and the Paycheck Fairness Act (both for the first time), and both chambers passed a bill to fund the government through December (more on that below).

But these efforts were already overdue. It has been over four years since AAUW and others have asked for legislation to fix the Citizens United decision. The government funding bill is only a “stopgap” continuing resolution; Congress has failed to pass a timely budget since Bill Clinton was president (1997). Yes, you read that right, too.

What's worse is that the list of what Congress didn't accomplish – raising the minimum wage, allowing certain graduates to refinance their student loans, reversing the Supreme Court's harmful Hobby Lobby decision, actually voting on the Paycheck Fairness Act – is even longer. Not to mention immigration reform, reforming the No Child Left Behind Act, updating the Higher Education Act – well, the list goes on.

### **Senate GOP Blocks Equal Pay Vote One Day before New Pay Gap Data Comes Out**

On Monday evening, the Senate [voted](#) along party lines to block a final up-or-down vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act. Monday's vote marked the fourth time in four years that a minority of senators has stood in the way of a vote on the merits of this much-needed equal pay bill. The gridlock stung even more this year because it came just a day before the Census Bureau announced that the gender pay gap for earnings of full-time, year-round workers in 2013 did not change significantly from the number reported in 2012. The Census data released this week also [showed](#) that Louisiana now has the largest gender pay gap of 34 cents (replacing Wyoming in the bottom spot), and the gender pay gap held steady for African American women while varying slightly for other racial and ethnic groups.

*Lynne Poag*

## 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

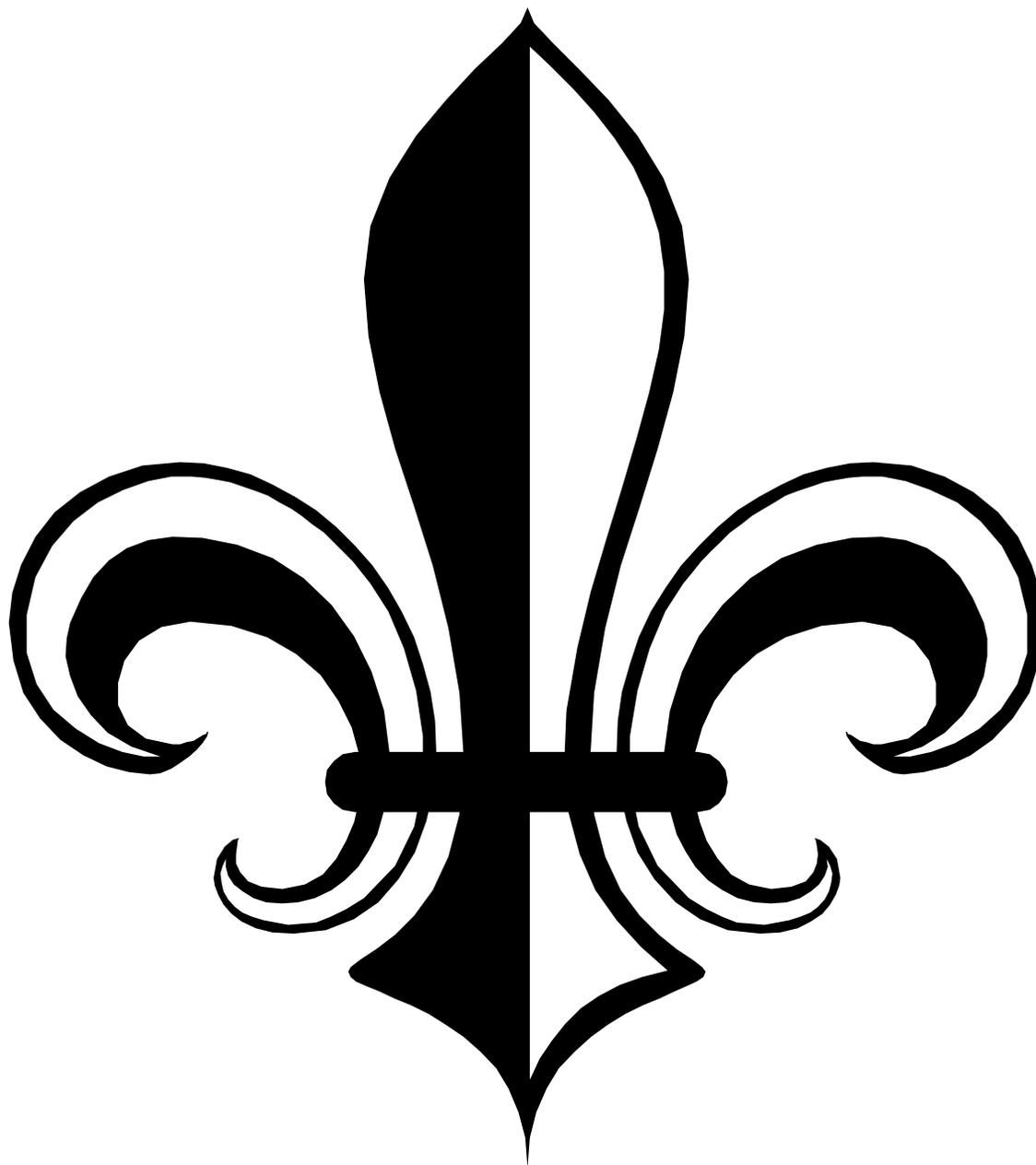
Mary Strickler

### Newsletter Coordinator

Mary Ann Brookes



**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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