

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

Eleanor: First Lady of the World

Much as FDR shaped the presidency, Eleanor redefined the role of presidential wives. While most former first ladies retreated to near-obscurity following their tenure in the White House, Eleanor remained a powerful figure in both national and world politics long after her husband's death. She was, and is, a formidable role model for girls and women the world over.

Eleanor did not come to her role as First Lady of the World easily. She first had to overcome an unhappy childhood, personal insecurities, a complicated marriage and a controlling mother-in-law. She emerged as an uncompromising champion of the poor and oppressed, of the young, and of women the world over. Often referred to as FDR's social conscience, theirs was a partnership of immense usefulness to America. For someone for whom public speaking was often an ordeal, Eleanor became a formidable presence in world politics. Her voice was heard through her syndicated newspaper column, press conferences and her participation in various conventions and gatherings. Harry Truman referred to her as The First Lady of the World. Hillary Clinton has recently identified Eleanor as one of her personal role models. Her voice can still be heard through her many quotes.

"A woman is like a teabag. You never know how strong she is until she is in hot water."

"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people."

Helen & Elsie

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, January 13, 7:15 pm

General Meeting - Mary Strickler—2014 World Cruise

Medford Leas, Rt. 70, Medford

Tuesday, January 20, 7:30 pm

Literature Group - Flight Behavior, by Barbara Kingsolver

Home of Bea Chawla

Planning Ahead:



Saturday, March 21, 2015, 11:30 am

Book & Author Brunch

Patti Sheehy, author of *The Boy Who Said No*

Alice Paul Institute

Alice Paul Institute is applying to AAUW for a Community Action Grant, which provides funds to local, community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs that promote education and equality for women and girls.

The API application asks for funding for the Alice Paul Professional Leadership Institute (APPLI), which is designed to provide teen girls and young women with personal and professional development opportunities by introducing them to college and career options.

APPLI offers interactive workshops on such topics as resume writing, networking and public speaking. More detailed information is on alicepaul.org.

The API Program Director is also an adjunct professor at BCC and will help us distribute our scholarship applications directly to eligible women both personally and through API.

API has invited us to tour Paulsdale in Mt. Laurel and hold meetings or special events there.

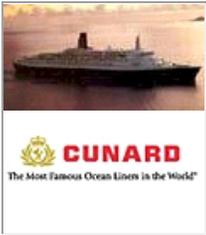
Elsie

Programs

All Aboard!!

Mary Strickler, AAUW Medford Area Branch's own World Traveler, will present her **2014 World Cruise Experiences** in narrative and photography on January 13. Please join us for the first meeting in 2015, and start off the New Year with an exceptional Program.

Nearly 1 year ago, Mary embarked on Cunard's luxury liner **Queen Mary 2** and cruised to foreign locations most of us can only dream about. She corresponded with several AAUW members during her cruise, and they recommended Mary's travelogue as one of the Programs. We are fortunate that Mary has agreed to share her photographs of several ports of call and describe tour highlights, onboard activities, and adventures. She will answer FAQs about long cruises, such as how she could stand being away for so long and if she got bored. Bring your own questions, and be entertained by Mary as only she can do.

Mary Strickler's World Cruise on Cunard's Queen Mary 2	
	Cruise Line: Cunard Ship: Queen Mary 2
	Segments: Depends on the ship and cruise itinerary
	Departure Port: New York View Itinerary
	Ports of Call: Sydney, Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai, Cape Town and more!
	Sailing Date: January 3, 2014

Dian Hatrick, Lynne Poag, and Cid Richards

AAUW Giving Center

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 Programs tri-chairs will deliver them. All donations are tax deductible.

The time after the holidays is especially difficult for Food Pantries, but it is an opportunity to share our many blessings with those in need.

Thanks for your generosity!

Cid, Dian & Lynne

Lit Group

On Tuesday, January 20, 2015 the Literature Group will meet at the home of Bea Chawla to discuss **Flight Behavior**, a novel by Barbara Kingsolver. The story concerns a young wife and mother on a failing farm in rural Tennessee who encounters something she cannot explain. Her discovery energizes various competing factions - religious leaders, climate scientists, environmentalists, politicians - trapping her in the center of the conflict and ultimately opening up her world. As the community lines up to judge her and her miracle, she must confront her family, her church, her town, and a larger world, in a flight toward truth that could undo all she has ever believed in.

Please join us on January 20th as we discuss this riveting book. Contact Bea Chawla to R.S.V.P. and for directions.

Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland

Legal Advocacy Fund

- * The Legal Advocacy Fund adopted *Moshak v University of Tennessee*, an important case that will draw attention to gender discrimination in athletics. LAF also adopted three more lawsuits supporting survivors of military sexual assault.
- * The California State Personnel Board finally reinstated a law judge's 2006 ruling in favor of LAF-supported plaintiffs Paul Thein, Laurel Wartluft, and Michelle Jaureguito. Thein, Wartluft, and Jaureguito filed whistleblower retaliation complaints against Feather River Community College, alleging that they were terminated after raising concerns about Title IX compliance and discrimination.
- * The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination upheld a ruling against the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, in LAF plaintiff Lulu Sun's gender and race discrimination case against the university. The decision vindicated Sun's claims and awarded her significant damages.

Tina Wetterau

Monthly Member Bio

Bea Chawla



Bea Chawla is a consummate, dedicated teacher, who brings her enthusiasm, knowledge, and varied interests to our AAUW Branch. Bea majored in Child Psychology at Mt. Holyoke College and, in her own words, “found it to be a very difficult school.” So difficult that in her

first year, Bea was convinced she would never make it, having come from a “not very good public high school.” Bea credits her mother, a former high school English teacher, for teaching her most of what she learned. With determination and hard work, Bea graduated Magna Cum Laude and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa right before graduation! She earned a Master’s Degree in Education from Columbia Teachers College in New York City.

Bea had always wanted to teach elementary school so, after college, she taught for 3 years. Her love of children inspired her to start a nursery school in Massachusetts when her youngest daughter was 4, and she continued to run it for 12 years. She was head teacher at a day care in Philadelphia and then head teacher and director of the day care at Medford Leas for children of the employees. That brought Bea to Medford.

Bea has been a “Jersey Girl” for most of her life. She was born in Middletown, and lived for a time in East Orange, Kearny, and Medford. She has also lived in Philadelphia, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and Lima, Ohio. Currently Bea lives in Vincentown (technically, Southampton).

Bea’s husband, Ish, is a retired chemistry professor from Long Island University. He has a son, a daughter and two grandchildren. Bea also has two daughters. One is an RN at Virtua Hospital in Mt. Holly and the other is a clinical and neuropsychologist at the V.A. Bea’s grandchildren are her favorite hobby, as she and Ish have 8 between the two of them. Every summer they look forward to spending a week in Ocean City, N.J. with the whole family; they especially love seeing the grandchildren enjoying the water and one another’s company!

Bea enjoys traveling, and has been to quite a few of the states, including Hawaii. She has spent time in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, England, Italy, India, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, and some of the Virgin Islands.

Over the years, Bea has joined many organizations that involve raising money for scholarships. From baking, making crafts and sewing, to starting plants to sell, Bea has done it all! In Ohio, Bea taught young children art during the summer for the local art association. She has been a Sunday school teacher for, in her words, “more years than I care to remember.” Bea is also the religious education director and a member of the board of trustees of the Dorothea Dix Unitarian Universalist Community in Bordentown where she and her family go to church.

Bea has also been a member of several garden clubs. Her favorite season is spring because she loves the promise of good things to come and never grows tired of “starting my garden and seeing the miracle of a tiny seed sprouting and developing.” She belongs to Pinelands Garden Club in Medford and has been in charge of decorating a room at the Smithville Mansion in the Victorian manner for the past few Christmases.

Bea and Ish enjoy playing bridge at the senior center. (She modestly says that, “he is a much better player!”) Bea keeps her mind and body in shape by playing brain games on the computer, walking, riding her stationary bike, and working out at Breakthru Fitness, usually 3 times a week.

Bea has been a long time member of AAUW and has served on the Executive Committee in various positions. As she says, “I enjoy all types of books, especially fiction and historical fiction” and asks, “What would I do without our AAUW book group?!”

And we say, “We are so happy that you’ve brought your knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to our branch!”

June Ramondetta & Lila Cleaver

Dollars for Scholars

The area’s largest sale of used books will be held by the **Wilmington AAUW** from Thursday, February 26 through Sunday, March 1 at the Concord Mall.

Most items are \$1 to \$5, with collectibles up to \$100. Items are sorted into more than 50 categories on tables throughout the mall. The sale includes DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes, records, sheet music and puzzles.

Starting 6 pm on Saturday, February 28, most items are half-price. The sale will help provide scholarships for Delaware women. For more information call 302-428-0939.

Elsie

Public Policy

Legislation to Advance National Women's History Museum Finally Passes

After 16 years of advocacy efforts, a bill that advances a National Women's History Museum is finally headed to the president's desk. Congress approved the legislation as a part of the National Defense Authorization Act, which cleared the House on December 4 and passed the Senate last week. The bill will establish a commission to study the creation of the museum in Washington, D.C. AAUW has been a long-time supporter of this bill and believes a museum to recognize women's many historic accomplishments is long overdue.

State Spotlight: New Jersey

AAUW of New Jersey Successfully Urges Assembly Committee to Pass Earned Sick Leave Bill

A New Jersey earned sick leave bill cleared the Assembly Budget Committee this week and will be voted on sometime in January. This bill would enable employees throughout the state to earn sick leave to care for themselves or a family member; it would benefit an estimated 1.2 million New Jersey workers. Paid sick leave is particularly important for women, who disproportionately bear the economic opportunity cost of taking children or elderly family members to the doctor and often delay seeking health care due to limited time off from work. AAUW of New Jersey sent a letter in support of this important piece of legislation to every member on the Budget Committee in advance of the committee vote.

Bits and Pieces

- Released e-mails stemming from the Sony hacking incident reveal that Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence was paid significantly less than her male co-stars in *American Hustle*. This discrepancy between salaries proves yet again that the wage gap still exists—even in Hollywood.
- After more than a year of uncertainty, the Senate confirmed Vivek Murthy as surgeon general on Monday night, making him the youngest and first Indian-American surgeon general.
- Today [12/19] the Department of Education released its outline of a federal college ratings system that aims to recognize schools which excel at enrolling students from all backgrounds, focusing on maintaining college affordability, and helping all students graduate.

Lynne Poag

2014/16 Executive Board

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

Member Greetings

Happy Birthday to two of our members born in January:

Betsy Cella January 10

Mary Strickler January 22



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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