

### 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

### The Quotable Tom

Each year to mark the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* (this is the 42<sup>th</sup>!), House Republicans like to introduce, and pass if possible, an antiabortion/pro-life bill to show their solidarity with the mass of demonstrators who faithfully show up, and, of course, the voters back home.

Usually, it is to renew the Hyde Amendment (after Henry Hyde) that prevents the use of federal funds to pay for an abortion, except in cases of rape, incest or threat to the mother's life. It must be renewed annually.

This year they went further, introducing the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that said a woman must report rape or incest to the police to be eligible for an abortion.

The House Republican women rebelled, as did some congressmen, and the bill was pulled and replaced with the usual version.

Among those raising concerns, was our very own anti-choice Tom MacArthur.

"I'm a practical Republican," he said. "This to me is about jobs," he said of legislative priorities. "It's about the economy. That's, I think, what the American people want the most."

If you want to get in touch with Tom, do so via his website, social media or letter to:

Tom MacArthur, 506 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

I had a stack of I ♥ Obama postcards and regularly fired one off to Jon Runyan. Now I have a stack of OccupyGeorge.com cards stamped and ready to go to Rep. MacArthur.

PS: Tom is already in trouble with his Tea Party constituents for voting for John Boehner to continue as Speaker of the House.

*Helen & Elsie*

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, February 10, 7:15 pm**

**General Meeting - Documented Legacy with Mary Danielson**

Medford Leas, Rt. 70, Medford

**Tuesday, February 17, 7:30 pm**

**Literature Group - *The Boy Who Said No: An Escape to Freedom*, by Patti Sheehy**

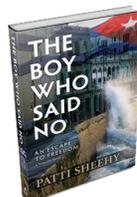
Home of Tricia Reace

### Planning Ahead:

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

**Book & Author Brunch**

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



*See the reservation form in this issue and RSVP now for your seat at the table and those great mimosas!!*

*Cathi Rendfrey sent us thanks for our donations of clothing, scarves, jewelry and gift cards to the Women's Opportunity Center in December!*

## Member Greetings

**Happy Birthday to two of our members born in February:**

**Tina Wetterau February 8**

**Helen O'Neill February 17**



## Programs

Learn how to preserve your family's history with a life story project in a workshop conducted by *Mary Danielsen of Documented Legacy*, a mobile personal historian company based in Mount Laurel. Join us February 10 at 7:30 pm.

Participants will learn the value of recording one's story; how to begin the process; getting organized; pacing your memory; collaborating with others; organizing photos, documents and other family archives; filling in gaps with research; and when to share your project with others. The workshop will include a breakout session where participants will ask each other a series of life story questions focusing on the AAUW's mission of empowering the lives of women and girls.

Most people have a list of projects they would like to create in their lifetime. Among the most talked about projects is recording stories with relatives and friends. Those personal stories bring one's history to life. Life story projects bring clarity to a family's legacy, goals and values.

**ABOUT DOCUMENTED LEGACY:** Documented Legacy helps people record their personal histories to preserve for future generations by documenting their experiences, values, beliefs and charitable decisions through storytelling, legacy writing, memoir, ethical wills and the organization of archives and heirlooms. The company recently published its first military memoir *From the Top Turret: A Memoir of World War II and the American Dream*.

*Dian Hatrick, Lynne Poag, and Cid Richards*

### **Monthly Collection for Charity - It's only a Can!**

Before you leave home to attend the AAUW meeting, please pick several cans of soup, tuna, etc. from your own pantry, put them in your car, and bring them to February's meeting. These cans add up!

Due to the recent snow storms and extremely cold weather, food pantries in our area need additional help feeding those most vulnerable. 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.

Thanks for your generosity!

*Dian Hatrick, Lynne Poag, and Cid Richards*

## Lit Group

In March, the speaker at our branch's annual Book and Author Brunch will be Patti Sheehy. Her "true life novel," *The Boy Who Said No: An Escape to Freedom*, is February's book group selection. After meeting Frank Mederos, Patti decided to tell his fascinating story, a story that includes his childhood in Cuba, his being drafted into Castro's army, his promotion into the Special Forces and his eventual decision to defect and escape from Cuba. Frank will also be a guest at the brunch in March.

The February meeting will be held at the home of Tricia Reace on Tuesday, February 17 at 7:30 pm. Please call her to RSVP and for directions.

*Helen O'Neill and Rose Mary Bland*

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

## Monthly Member Bio

### *Sylvia Teahan*



Sylvia Teahan (nee Jones) has held many positions in our local AAUW branch; most recently, she served as the co-Vice President of Programs for the 2012-14 years. A true Jersey Girl, Sylvia was born in Bridgeton NJ and

has lived in Moorestown, Medford Lakes, and Southampton.

After graduating from Millville High School and Trenton State College, Sylvia began her teaching career. Both of her parents were educators, and although they encouraged her to try another profession, it never occurred to her to try anything else. From her very first day in the classroom until the day she retired, Sylvia loved teaching. She taught Kindergarten for most of her career, but also spent some time in first grade, second grade and third grade. During her 34 years of teaching, Sylvia describes her greatest rewards as the times she found discovering ways to teach skills without using paper and pencil. Music and literature were her favorite choices.

Sylvia had the opportunity to apply her knowledge and experience to the field of Educational Publishing. Her husband at the time was a sales representative for an educational publisher and through him, she met many interesting people in the field. Sylvia established contacts and later co-wrote a series of elementary phonics workbooks. Then, when she retired from teaching, Sylvia became a per-diem educational consultant and began visiting schools and teachers from all around the country. She learned that teachers had the same concerns and problems everywhere she went.

Sylvia has two daughters from her first marriage. Her daughter, Becky Hatcher, lives in NJ and works for a company called Learning Ally. It is a non-profit that provides recorded educational materials for the visually impaired. (This unique and important service with an interesting history might even serve as a topic for an upcoming AAUW meeting!) Sylvia's other daughter, Jody Hatcher Kleponis, lives in Cape Canaveral FL, has two

children, two dogs, a cat and two jobs. Her husband is the family care-taker. Jody's second job is that of a singer in a trio that entertains at the tourist restaurants and bars in the Cape Canaveral area.

Sylvia has and loves cats. She has always had one or two her entire life and each and every one has been different. Her two current cats, Priya and Percy, are brother and sister. (Sylvia says that they fight like brother and sister, too!)

If you've ever been fortunate enough to hear Sylvia sing, you'd know how much she loves it! She used to sing every day in the classroom and says that it "served as a great break between lessons and activities!" She is currently participating in a volunteer chorus in Burlington, NJ called the "Burlington Entertainers." Their show this year will be at Burlington High School on April 10 & 11th. The tickets will benefit Deborah Hospital.

Sylvia is very active in the Medford Senior Center. She has held positions on the executive board and enjoys playing cards and participating in the book club at Cranberry Hall.

Sylvia and her spouse, Richard, try to stay a week or two in Cape May every summer. She loves the sun and the beach and Richard loves the Cape May Racket Club. They both love the town!

Sylvia is a wonderful gal with a great sense of humor! Get to know her, you'll enjoy every minute!

*June Ramondetta & Lila Cleaver*

## Fundraising

It's time to sign up for the Book and Author Brunch on March 21st. You can use the flyer in this edition of the newsletter to RSVP—deadline is March 1st.

And, if you have some great Holiday photos you'd like to get prints of, or make into various kinds of gifts, check out [www.FundPhotos.com](http://www.FundPhotos.com). We are registered there so once you sign up (which is easy and free) the Branch will get 20% of the purchase price of your choices. An easy way to get some great stuff and earn us some money at the same time.

*Mary Strickler*

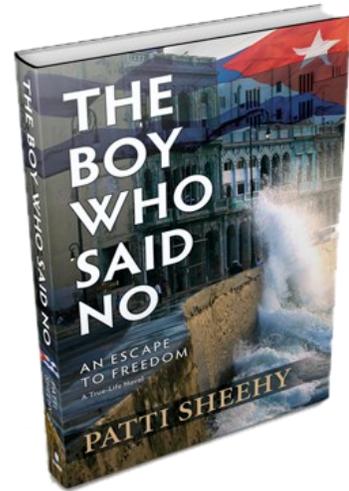


*Medford Area Branch presents*

## *The Boy Who Said No: An Escape to Freedom*

Meet author Patti Sheehy, accompanied by

*The book is a riveting tale of love, friendship and adventure. Based on a true story, it chronicles Frank's life from his childhood in Castro's Cuba and his escape from the Cuban army's special forces to his defection to the*

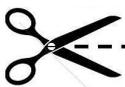


**\*\* Ticket proceeds help fund college scholarships \*\***

**When: Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 11:30 AM**

**Where: Medford Leas, Route 70, Medford, NJ**

**Tickets: \$30 per person \$15 tax deductible**



**\*\*\*\*\* RSVP \*\*\*\*\***

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$30 each)

I cannot attend, but am enclosing my scholarship contribution of \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to **AAUW Medford***

Send RSVP and check by **March 1** to

Mary Strickler, 105 West Maple Tree Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060

## 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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