

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 Us, 100 Years Ago

If we were living in the United States in 1915, what could our lives be like?

We could still be AAUW members. The national organization was founded in 1881 to improve women's lives.

We could be a Women's Club member. The General Federation of Women's Clubs was founded in 1890 to press for government and social reform including public health care for mothers, a ban on child labor and woman suffrage. Both groups were harbingers of the Progress Era, an all-encompassing reform movement lasting from 1890 until about 1920.

We wouldn't have been voting for any of those reforms, however, since women didn't get the vote until 1920. In 1915, Woodrow Wilson, staunchly opposed to woman suffrage, was President.

We would have been worried about the U.S. getting involved in the Great War in Europe. World War I started in 1914, but the U.S. did not enter until 1917. There was controversy about which side to support as many US citizens were of German descent.

When a German U-Boat torpedoed the British cruise ship the Lusitania in 1915 (128 Americans were killed), there was a storm of protest in the U.S. The Women's Peace Party was formed to urge against war.

We would have been worried about our health. Typhoid Mary infected 25 people in New York before she was taken into permanent custody. We could have easily died of childbed fever or tuberculosis. There were no general purpose antibiotics until 1933.

In 1870, the Comstock Act made illegal distribution of information about birth control. Margaret Sanger had just started her work in 1914 and was the first to popularize the term "birth control."

And, day-to-day, there was no air conditioning or central heating and little indoor plumbing in 1915.

We may not be happy with 2105, but we're 100 years better off.

Helen & Elsie

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 pm

General Meeting - Social Networking

Linden Room, Medford Leas, Medford

PLEASE arrive around 7:15, so we can start promptly at 7:30. Thanks!

Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 pm

Literature Group - All the Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr

Home of Helen O'Neill

Saturday, September 19, 9 am - 5 pm

Military Day at Indian Acres Tree Farm

Looking ahead:

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Book & Author Brunch

Member Greetings

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in September:

Rita Manno	11th
Cynthia Sosnowski	16th
Tricia Reace	26th
Elsie Behmer	30th

Gladys Lowden-Metz



A number of current and former AAUW members attended Gladys' memorial service on July 11. The Protestant Community Church was full of Gladys' family and friends as well as former teaching colleagues and students.

The eulogies were wonderful and so captured Gladys' essence. One was a former African American student who's been "part of the family" for 47 years. Another was a currently 60 year old woman she met on a tour in Italy. She was the 26 year old tour guide at the time and Gladys kept in touch with her every Saturday morning for the past 34 years!! And they spent a long weekend together at least once a year. Amazing. Her family talked beautifully about her too. She would have liked it! It was truly a celebration of life for a remarkable woman.

To Gladys with a glass of white wine, chilled with a few ice cubes!



AAUW Remembers Gladys

Attendees pictured:

Mary Marsh, Lynne Poag, Judy Mangeng, Tricia Reace, Nancy Sauer, Cid Richards, and Dian Hatrick

Attendees not pictured:

Mary Switzer, Janet Mee, Rachel Wubker

Programs

Social Networking

In memory of our beloved friend and fellow AAUW member, the Programs Tri-VPs dedicate the September 8 meeting to Gladys Lowden-Metz. **Social Networking** will allow members and guests open time before the Business Meeting to introduce ourselves and share individual stories. Please join us at 7:30 pm in the Medford Leas Linden Room and do what Gladys did at each meeting.

As June Ramondetta eloquently described in her conversation with Gladys in the May 2015 issue of the *Pinelines*, Gladys passionately believed that members needed to socialize and share experiences. "... Gladys very much enjoys our meetings and getting to know our members. She believes that they each have a story to tell and that some might like to share it with others. To help to get to know each other, she'd like to occasionally go around the room and speak everyone's names and possibly tell something about ourselves."

Last September, we embarked on sharing stories of bias against women in school, the workplace, and the community. We agreed that the hard-won victories for women's rights were being taken for granted by the "younger generation." They seem to believe the battle is over. That is emphatically not true. We need to communicate our stories to protect women's rights.

AAUW members have other stories in common and those that are unique. See you on September 8 with a good story!

Dian, Lynne, and Cid

Military Day

AAUW is again sponsoring **Military Day** at Indian Acres Tree Farm on Saturday, September 19. 9am-5pm.

The Farm and all the activities are Free to our military and veteran families. We are joined in our effort with the Shawnee high school National Honor Society again this year. The SNHS will entertain the kids in our games tent.

Additionally, we extend a welcome to all AAUW members to join us as we enjoy a sunny, fun- filled day honoring our Military. Thank you for your support.

Dian

Literature Group

Anthony Doerr's book, *All the Light We Cannot See*, is an epic work of historical fiction. With richly detailed language and characters who are both brave and heart-breaking, Doerr weaves together the stories of a French girl named Marie-Laure and a German orphan named Werner.

Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo.

In a mining town in Germany, Werner grows up enchanted by a crude radio he has found. He becomes an expert at building and repairing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth and then a special assignment to track the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 at the home of Helen O'Neill as we meet to discuss this beautifully written book. Please contact Helen at helen1409@verizon.net to R.S.V.P. and for directions.

Looking ahead, on Tuesday, October 20th, we will meet at the home of Tricia Reace to discuss *The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey* by Rinker Buck.

Helen & Tricia

Membership

Welcome back to another great year of AAUW fellowship as we participate in engaging programs, cover important issues, and support worthy causes. This section will again be dedicated to getting to know our members and sharing interesting experiences. Please bring your ideas to our first meeting and plan to share your thoughts on ways we might modify and/or enhance our column.

We look forward to seeing you again!

June Ramondetta and Lila Cleaver

Fundraising

Help Wanted

Friends Helping Friends

On Tuesday, October 20 Boscov's will again host its popular Friends Helping Friends day to benefit area non-profit organizations.

Our chapter has raised \$400+ each year for several years by selling \$5 friends passes. The pass entitles shoppers to receive a 25% discount for most purchases made only on October 20.

We need someone to co-ordinate this fundraiser for our chapter. The paperwork is due to Boscov's by September 14. Boscov's will send us a packet of 250 (or more if we request) shopping passes, which we then sell.

If we sell a whole packet, we would receive \$1,250 for our scholarship fund. We award \$1,000 scholarships.

The paperwork will be available at the September meeting.

Elsie Behmer

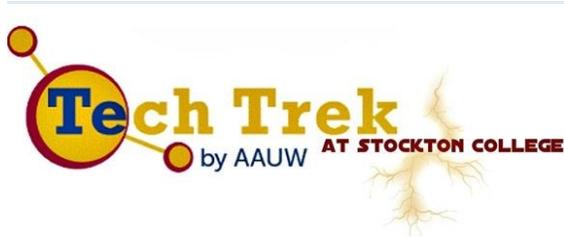
Worthwhile Donation

Our annual \$50 donation to the *Alice Paul Institute* in recognition of our speakers pales in comparison to the \$10,000 grant to API (for the APPLI program) from national AAUW that our branch supported with a letter of recommendation, but every little bit helps for a great cause. Our own Cynthia Sosnowski gives an example:

I participated in the July 17 Alice Paul Institute Teen Leadership Networking event and can attest that our money is going to a very good and well-run cause. It was an excellent event, the young women had spent an interesting and engaging week learning about higher education and what it takes to be successful in their next steps. They visited 8 different colleges in the region and had been coached in interviewing, essay writing, and "putting their best self forward". I met personally with 6 young women during our round robin 1:1 meetings and I was impressed with all of them. One even wrote me a thank you note for speaking with her about my education and career choice.

Great investment on our part, I would say!

Cynthia



Volunteers needed for the **2016 Tech Trek program**. In the summer of 2016, the camp will be held from July 17 to 23.

The pilot program of 2015 was a huge success! Last year's camp was (only) open to 30 girls from Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

For 2016, the program will double in size and be extended to 60 girls, and be open to 8th grade girls throughout the state.

We need assistance in recruiting volunteers. We could use help in the following areas:

- Dorm Monitors
- Student Selections
- Safety
- Public Relations/Marketing/Media
- Supplies

See descriptions of the [volunteer positions](#) which were needed to run the 2015 camp.

See the [Atlantic County Tech Trek](#) and [Cape May County Tech Trek](#) for information about some of the volunteer position descriptions that had been prepared for the 2015 camp (**see the How to Get Involved Section**).

Please contact me directly if you would like to volunteer!

Dawn N. Watkins

Office of Social & Behavioral Sciences

(609) 334-7261

Dawn.Watkins@stockton.edu

Membership Renewal

Thanks to those who have renewed already. If you haven't, please get your renewal in now.

The dues are still \$65, which is \$49 to National, \$10 to NJ State, and the remaining \$6 to Medford Area branch.

You can send a check to me, or you can use a credit card to easily renew online on the AAUW website at this link:

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/join-a-branch-or-renew-branch-membership/>

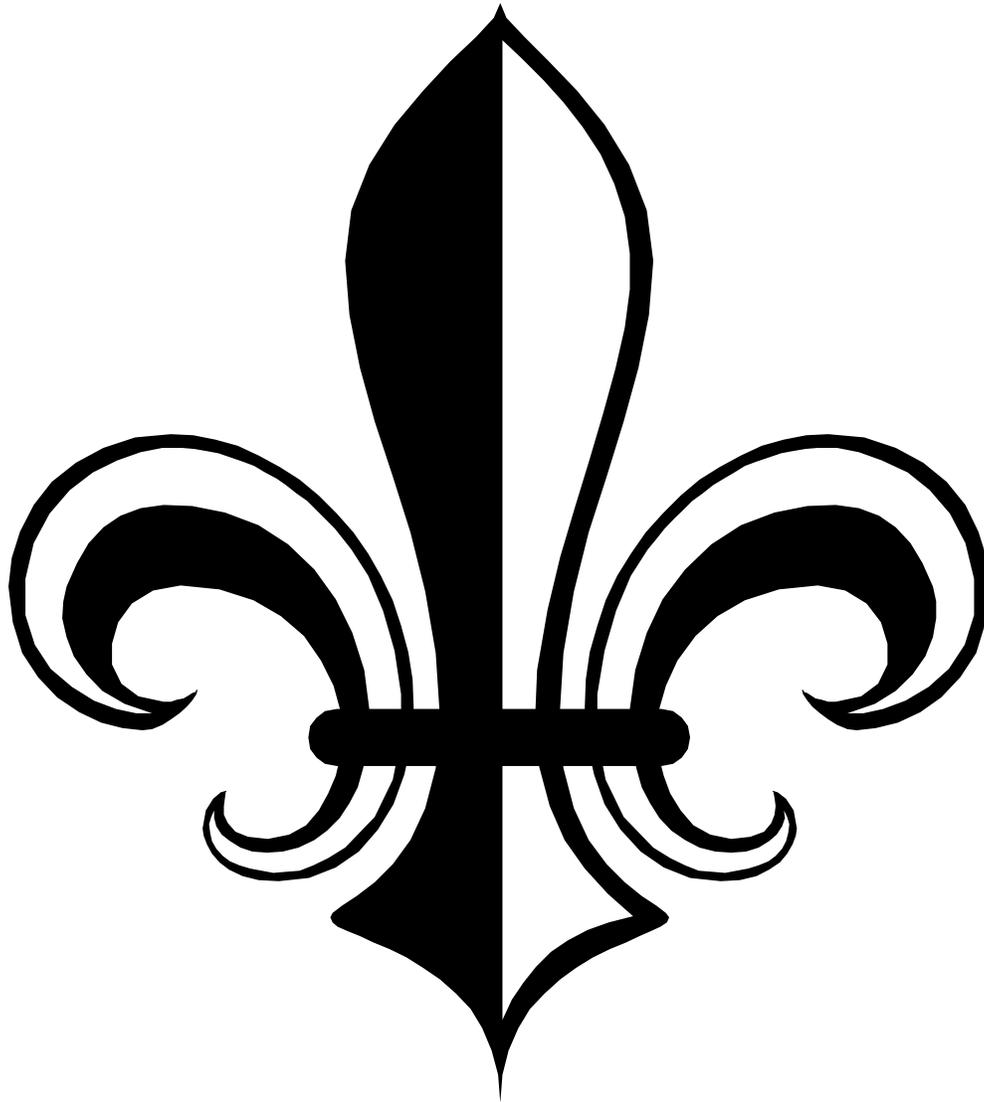
If you prefer the check payment, please make it payable to *AAUW Medford Area* and bring it to our meeting or mail it to:

Mary Ann Brookes
38 Red Oak Trail
Medford, NJ 08055

2015/16 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
Public Policy	Lynne Poag
Legal Advocacy Fund	Tina Wetterau
Scholarship	Cynthia Sosnowski
Literature Group Co-Chairs	Helen O'Neill Tricia Reace
Hospitality	Bea Chawla
Public Relations	June Ramondetta
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

Newsletter Editor:
Mary Ann Brookes

