



AAUW

AAUW NetWorks

Monthly newsletter of the Northern Monmouth County (NJ) Branch
American Association of University Women

Volume 54, Number 1

October 2009

Presidents' Message

Grateful thanks to our outgoing co-presidents, **Alice MacPhee** and **Marilyn Parker**, and their hard-working board members who led us through an exciting and productive two years. Our goal is to keep the momentum going and, with your help, continue to promote equity for women through our special events and activities.

The first of these events will mark the re-opening of our Book Sale after the summer hiatus with an exciting presentation by Charles A. Haas, world-renowned author and expert on the famous ship, Titanic. Although we may already be familiar with some of its story, Mr. Haas will bring a new dimension by sharing his personal experiences and exhibiting unique artifacts. Don't miss this opportunity to tune into history — mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, 4 to 6 p.m., at Old First Church, 69 Kings Highway, Middletown. There will be a short wine and cheese reception before the presentation.

Mary Ann Anderl, our gifted Program VP, has put together a sparkling list of branch meetings, starting with Monday, October 5, at 6:30 p.m., when the well-known presenter, Pat Squire, will discuss and recommend popular books. Mark the date and compile your reading list for the indoor days ahead.

Don't miss the article on page 4 by **Barbara Iwanski**, who was our branch representative to the AAUW 2009 National Convention in St. Louis in June. Our enthusiasm is nurtured and reinforced by her sharing the inspiring experience of being with hundreds of dedicated and energetic women at the Convention. At our October 5 branch meeting, Barbara will speak about the topics voted on by the delegates.

Many thanks to **Kate Bigg**, who for years has been responsible for the production of our yearbook, a little book with a lot of important information. It could be called our "Branch Bible." Thank you, Kate, for your dedicated service. Although you've offered to

(continued on page 5)

Branch Meeting

Monday, October 5, 6:30 p.m.
(Please note the change in time.)
Eatontown Community Center,
58 Broad Street

"Your Autumn Reading List"
with Pat Squire

Hors d'oeuvres and Dessert

Please join us for our first meeting of the 2009-2010 year, when branch favorite Pat Squire will present an entertaining, fast-paced review of 25 books of all types. The books will be specially chosen for us, and Pat will provide booklists, pens, and copies of all the books for us to peruse. Those who have heard her before know that Pat is a witty, informative speaker with excellent taste in reading.

Our college scholarship winners also have been invited to tell us about their studies and career goals; their stories always impress us and inspire our work for EF in the coming year.

Hors d'oeuvres and cake will be served, giving us a chance to catch up with each other after the summer break.

All are welcome—bring a friend! If you need a ride, please call Membership VPs Laura Noll or Mary Lea Burden.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 30, 7 p.m. at Susan Gelber's, Little Silver

BRANCH OFFICERS 2009-2010

Co-Presidents	Doris Hudak Barbara Iwanski
Program VP	Mary Anne Anderl
Study Group VP	Barbara Sickman
Membership VPs	Mary Lea Burden Laura Noll
Educational Foundation VPs	Jeannette Molzer Carol Quinby-Walther
Public Policy VP	Joan Spring
Communication VPs	Margaret Barney Elaine Lent
Financial VP	Barbara Williamson
Recording Secretary	Irene Gibson Ruth Hodum

NetWorks is published monthly except January, July, August, and September by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of the American Association of University Women.

Items for the November issue are due on September 30 to:
Nancy Butler, Editor

Send address changes, names of prospective members, membership applications and checks, and questions about non-receipt of the newsletter to:
Laura Noll

**"Titanic: The Story of a Great Ship"
Book Sale Re-Opening Event
Sunday, September 13, 4-6 p.m.
Old First Church, Middletown
Advance sale tickets: \$15.00
Call: 732-933-4855**

Study, Action, Interest Groups**Advanced Spanish Conversation**

Meets: First Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Contact: Alicia Portuondo

We get together for a social coffee and to listen to a speaker on a subject of interest to the group, or we watch a videotape about current events. Call for meeting details.

Art History

Meets: Third Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Mary Anne Anderl

Please note the change in meeting day. Our October activity will be a visit to the Cezanne exhibit at Montclair Museum. There will be no evening meeting. For details, please contact Mary Ann or Jeannette Molzer. New members are welcome!

Drama

Meets: Wednesday, September 23, 1 p.m.

Topic: *26 Miles* at Two River Theater

Meets: Wednesday, October 7, at Sue Mindnich's for discussion of *26 Miles*

Meets: Wednesday, October 28, 1 p.m.

Topic: *Midsummer Night's Dream* at Two River

Contact: Marjorie Levy

New members are welcome to attend a meeting and/or join the group for a matinee or weekend performance. Call/e-mail for details.

French Conversation

Meets: 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.

Contact: Kate Wellauer

Members with a good knowledge of the French language converse in French on many different subjects. We all strive to improve our skills, meeting on a rotating basis for lunch at a member's home. We encourage more AAUW members to join us. Call/e-mail for meeting details.

French Intermediate

Meets: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9:30 to 12

Contact: Anne Morrison

Lively discussion of French customs, culture, current events. New members very welcome! Call/e-mail for meeting details.

German Conversation

Meets: Twice a month on Mondays, 9:30-12

Contact: Walli Rosen

To retain and improve German language skills, the group reads about/discusses current events and contemporary German literature. Call for meeting details. New members are welcome.

Insights

Meets: Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *An Inconvenient Truth* by Al Gore

Meets: Tuesday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins* by Kirsten Downey

Contact: Marilyn Parker

This group reads and discusses contemporary non-fiction to increase understanding and knowledge of current issues. New members are welcome! Contact chair for locations.

Italian Conversation

Meets: 2nd Tuesday, 1 to 3 p.m. at Estelle Yaraschuk's in Middletown

Contact: Jeannette Molzer or Irene Gibson

To improve knowledge of Italian language and make Italian travel easier, this group studies customs, culture, and people of modern-day Italy. We would love to welcome new members; please call/e-mail for information.

Literature

Meets: Thursday, September 17, 1:30 p.m.

Topic: *Tree of Smoke: A Novel* by Denis Johnson

Meets: Thursday, October 15, 1:30 p.m.

Topic: *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

Contact: Regina Sieben

A different member acts as a leader each month and presents background and critical appraisal of that month's selection. We welcome new members. Please contact chair for meeting details.

Movies and More

Meets: Tuesday or Wednesday evening

Contact: Jeannette Molzer

Contact chair to be put on list for receiving details, usually the week before. New members welcome!



Membership

Please welcome the following new and returning members and former members-at-large (they are all listed in the new Yearbook):

Pat Baroska

Marie Beebe

Phyllis Brown

Deborah Brungard

Danielle Diodata

Paula Eliscu

Judith Mugrace

Regina Venezia

Please welcome new members **Annette Benanti** and **Barbara Nevius** and returning member **Aline Ashkin**, and add their contact information to your Yearbook. Annette was an AAUW member in Bergen County before moving to this area.

Annette Benanti
Long Branch, NJ 07740
Rutgers
Retired social worker

Barbara Nevius
Red Bank, NJ 07701
Universite de Lausanne; Colby-Sawyer College
Jewelry appraiser, gemologist
Theater, tennis, skiing, travel

Aline Ashkin
Rumson, NJ 07760
Cornell; Rutgers
Retired high school teacher

Danielle Diodata, recipient of our Esther Hymer Award at Monmouth University for the past two years, graduated from Monmouth in May summa cum laude with the highest GPA in political science. She will start at Seton Hall Law School in August.

Barbara Lamb was recognized with a Department of the Army Service Award for her dedication as a volunteer at the Fort Monmouth Thrift Shop. The thrift shop provides the bulk of funds to support scholarship awards and many other community welfare disbursements. She has been a member of the Fort Monmouth Officers Wives Club with over 23 years of service, and will be one of the volunteers who will close the doors for the last time in 2010.

A number of branch members are snowbirds and receive mail at alternate addresses for periods of time. Most branch mailings cannot be forwarded because they are sent “bulk mail.” We want to keep all members in touch with branch activities and can send branch mailings to your alternate address. Just send us the address and the dates when you will be receiving mail there.

If you have a red dot on your mailing label this month, this will be your last mailing of the *NetWorks* until your dues are paid. Regular dues are \$69, which includes branch, state, and national AAUW membership. Guest dues are \$40 and do not include state or national membership. Please send your check and up-to-date contact information to Laura Noll at 85 Hance Road, Fair Haven, NJ 07704.

If you need a ride to a branch meeting or activity, please call one of us.

Mary Lea Burden
Laura Noll
Co-Membership Vice Presidents

Convention Reports

I would like to thank the branch for the privilege of attending the AAUW National Convention as your delegate. The convention was both exciting and exhilarating, and I enjoyed it very much. It was a great experience to see AAUW in action. The convention was well-planned and executed, and gave me a view of the organization that I would never otherwise see. It was mostly women, but there were a few men, too. So many people of all ages gathered together, working for the benefit of an organization, is a unique sight.

This convention had very important work to do because of the changing structure of AAUW that was voted on at the 2007 convention. The Educational Foundation becomes the primary corporation, including the activities of the old EF, the Leadership and Training Institute, and the previous Association. New bylaws had to be voted on for this new structure, even if all of the proposed changes were not accepted. Without the new bylaws, the organization would have been at a real loss on July 1, 2009, because of the new structure.

I did not really understand what I was going for until I was there. It was this process that I felt was the core of the meeting. So many people there had varying views on what they felt was the path for the

organization to take. So many felt so very strongly. The aim was to keep AAUW relevant in our changing times.

The biggest issue was opening the membership to people who are supporters of the AAUW ideals and goals, rather than requiring a college degree of all members. A lesser and more accepted issue was giving each member a vote in the affairs of AAUW. Needless to say, a sort of compromise was reached, with the membership issue put off but the “one member, one vote” issue accepted. When the membership issue is raised again, the entire membership will get to vote on it.

Aside from the business meetings, there were workshops that enabled attendees to meet people and discuss the nitty-gritty things that AAUW does. I was interested in what some branches in other states do with their book sales. One branch in Michigan raises \$40,000 in a few days. How do they do it? The woman I spoke with said it was just hard work and dedication. I think we have that too, but I was awed. This is the kind of experience that makes the convention worthwhile — learning what others do. There was also a lot of excitement in new on-line facilities for members.

The electioneering was interesting. The candidates really put themselves into the elections, as local or national candidates do in campaigning. They spent a bit on election hand-outs, distributing all sorts of election freebies.

There were many things going on each day. The formal meetings were run strictly by Roberts Rules; they had to be run this way to maintain the order of business in reasonable time frames, with many people participating. The primary speakers, including Lilly Ledbetter, were strong and motivating. Plenary sessions on varying topics were interesting as well. All in all, it was really an elucidating experience and time well spent.

Barbara Iwanski
Co-President

I wish all of you could have been at the AAUW National Convention “Breaking Through Barriers” in St. Louis in June with Barbara Iwanski and me! It was amazing!

We joined 973 other women (and a few men) to elect Carolyn Garfein the new president and pass new national bylaws. The “one member, one vote” proposal passed and the “open membership” vote failed. (The issue of mission-based membership will likely be re-introduced in 2011.)

Inspiration was everywhere. Lilly Ledbetter spread the message of pay equity, and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (Conn.) flew in from Washington, DC, to

speak on legislation backed by AAUW. She spoke of AAUW's pioneering spirit for women's issues and urged the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Workshops led by accomplished women fueled new ideas to bring back to share with branch and state members. We enjoyed networking with members from across the country, and we hope to bring new ideas to all of you.

Barbara Williamson
Financial VP, NMCB
Membership VP, AAUW-NJ

Presidents' Message (cont. from p. 1)

assist your replacement, yours will be difficult shoes to fill. Takers, any one or two?

Our newsletter, *AAUW NetWorks*, which is compiled and edited by our talented **Nancy Butler**, is another lifeline to important information about our branch activities and events. We rely on it time and again for the latest and complete source of AAUW news.

We look forward to seeing you at any and all of these happenings!

Doris Hudak
Barbara Iwanski
Co-Presidents

LAF Update

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) issues a monthly newsletter, *LAF Express*, that is published on the national AAUW website. Recent news includes an announcement that Lilly Ledbetter (known as the face of pay equity), who spoke at last January's AAUW-NJ conference at Brookdale, raised over \$5,000 for LAF by signing autographs at the AAUW national convention this summer in St. Louis.



There was a new U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June concerning a case AAUW had weighed in on through LAF and that many of us have read about in the newspapers. In the *Ricci v. DeStefano* case, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of the New Haven firefighters. The case was made famous by the fact that new Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor,

while on the 2nd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, had voted to uphold a lower court's ruling in favor of the city of New Haven. The U.S. Supreme Court reversed this ruling in the midst of Justice Sotomayor's Senate confirmation hearing.

Last March AAUW had joined the National Women's Law Center and the National Partnership for Women and Families in signing an amicus brief in support of the city of New Haven, CT (the same side as Justice Sotomayor voted). The city had invalidated a firefighter promotion test, fearing it had a disparate impact on minorities, and had made no promotions. An interesting aspect of the case was that both sides (the firefighters and the city) argued on the basis of not violating Title VII employment rights, i.e., against discrimination with respect to race or gender.

More information on LAF, including a summary of current and past cases, is available at www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf/.

Pat Miller
LAF Chair

Scholarship News

As always, spring was a busy time for Scholarship, when our branch made awards to county women as well as to our national scholarship fund. *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts was presented to the female graduating senior earning the highest grade in mathematics at each of the 22 area high schools.

The Ruth Kennedy Scholarship, a grant of \$1,000 to a Douglass College student, was awarded to **Karen Biala** of Morganville, a current junior majoring in Cellular Biology and Public Health.

Esther Boulos of Hazlet has received the **Esther Hymer Award** of \$1,000, made each year to a woman student at Monmouth University studying Political Science or Sociology. Esther is a junior majoring in Political Science with a concentration in International Affairs.

The Audrie LaTowsky Scholarship, given each year to a returning woman student at Brookdale Community College, was augmented by a \$500 donation this year from **Audrie LaTowsky** herself. **Katrina Howell** of Neptune received \$1,500 for her continuing studies at Brookdale, where she is pursuing an A.A. degree in Business Administration. She plans to enter Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations.

Our branch also contributed \$3,000 to our second named unit at the Educational Foundation. When completed, this fund will join our original named unit in providing graduate fellowships to New Jersey women scholars. The money for these awards and contributions is earned each year through the efforts of branch members who lead and support Educational Foundation activities, such as the Book Sale, fundraisers, and the history book project. Last year's achievements will certainly inspire our work in the coming branch year.

Mary Ann Anderl
Scholarship Chair, Program VP

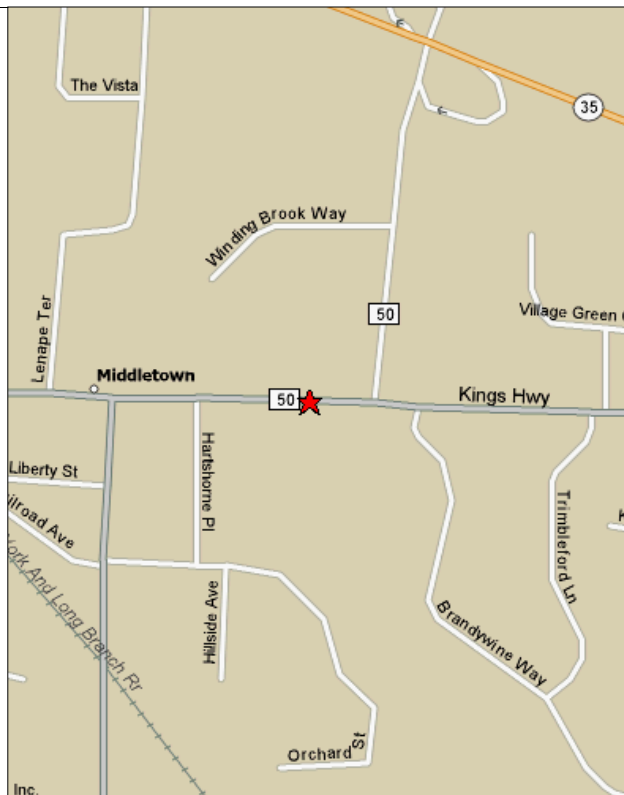
Educational Foundation

In the fiscal year that just ended in June, our branch contributed \$3,000 to our Northern Monmouth County Branch Fellowship. We have now achieved \$23,420 of our goal of \$35,000 pledged in 2003 to support a second graduate student attending a New Jersey school.

Each of us supports the AAUW mission—equity for women—through our membership dues. We take that mission a step further: each year we help three women earn college degrees. Once again we were able to provide three undergraduate students from Brookdale Community College, Douglass College, and Monmouth University with \$1,000 scholarships.

The Saturday Book Sale is our primary resource for fundraising. Cartons of books are donated regularly – especially Thursday mornings, sorted by Viki Mischenko, and stacked on the shelves by the wonderful booklovers who come to help. The donations are plentiful: Viki has a storeroom full of new acquisitions for the **Book Sale**, which **re-opens the first Saturday after Labor Day, September 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

You have busy lives, and many prefer not to attend evening events. So please take note that we will have a Sunday afternoon **Wine and Cheese Reception, 4 to 6 p.m. on September 13**, to celebrate the 2009 re-opening of the Book Sale at Old First Church, 69 Kings Highway, Middletown. Our member Kate Bigg has invited her high school friend, Charlie Haas, to be our guest speaker and share with us his passion and expertise on the great ship, the Titanic. Charlie has been down to the wreck in



Book Sale Location

Old First Church, 69 Kings Hwy., Middletown
Open Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

submersibles and will bring artifacts from his explorations. The punch bowl will be filled with Garibaldi Punch; we'll have wine spritzers, glasses of wine, and other beverages.

The donation is \$15 and *all* of it will go to our scholarship recipients. For advance tickets, call 732-933-4855. I hope you'll bring a friend and help us celebrate a new year of events!

Carol Walther
Educational Foundation Co-VP

Become a Reading Buddy!

As a Family and Children's Service READING BUDDY, I visit my assigned school once a week from October to May. I have two first grade groups of four and read from a selection of regularly rotated, provided children's books for a half hour each. My kids and teachers very much look forward to our

group's visits, and I leave invigorated and smiling. Subs are also needed. Of course, screening and support are provided. For more information, contact Marcy at 732-728-1331.

Madeline Fedak
AAUW Life Member/Retired Teacher

Public Policy

AAUW Attends White House Briefing on Health Care: On August 12, AAUW attended, at the invitation of the White House, a briefing hosted by Obama administration officials to discuss women and health reform. Among those at the briefing were Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to the president, and Tina Tchen, the director of the office of public engagement and the executive director of the White House Council on Women and Girls. The White House provided an update on the progress of health reform legislation on Capitol Hill and spoke about the importance of health reform for women across the nation. Four congressional committees have reported out versions of health reform legislation, and the House of Representatives is expected to take up a bill following the congressional recess in September.

Action: AAUW believes that health care is a basic right, and that women in the United States are in particular need of health reform legislation. Specifically, AAUW believes that any health reform legislation must include the following three tenets: an end to the practice of gender rating, the process by which insurance companies charge men and women different premiums for individually-purchased health care plans; coverage of reproductive health services; and access to and coverage of preventive services and care. If you haven't yet done so, urge your members of Congress to make these three critical pieces a part of the final health care reform bill. Read AAUW's full position paper on health care at www.aauw.org.

Join AAUW on Twitter and Facebook: Follow AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz, and AAUW members from around the nation to hear the latest AAUW and public policy news through this new online communication technology; you can also follow your elected officials. Link to

Book Corner

The **Insights Interest Group** is creating this new section in *NetWorks* to share information on particularly good books we have read and discussed recently in the hope that it will help you select your reading material wisely. Most of these Books are available through the Monmouth County Library system.

Our first recommendation is *China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power* by Rob Gifford. We found this book to be an absolutely fascinating way to learn about Chinese geography, people, and politics. With over 20 years of experience with China and as a fluent speaker of Chinese, Gifford, originally from Britain, journeyed 3,000 miles across China on the main highway using various means of public transportation and mixing with ordinary Chinese citizens along the way. His account of this trip introduced us to the key issues in China today and will help us understand this very important country.

I also highly recommend that you plan to hear Pat Squire at the October branch meeting. She will give you the lowdown on a number of current books in a most entertaining format.

Marilyn Parker
Insights Chair

Twitter and AAUW's Facebook group at www.aauw.org/about.

Joan Spring
Public Policy VP

In Memoriam

Long-time branch member **Bette Abel** died in May at the age of 91. Bette held a B.F.A. from Rollins College and an M.F.A. from Yale. An accomplished artist and art instructor, she exhibited and taught at many venues, including our Art Instruction Study Group, which she led for many years. Bette also was president of the Jersey Shore Chapter of People to People, receiving a lifetime achievement award in Berlin in 2007. We so enjoyed her company at last December's branch meeting, and we extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

We also extend our sympathy to long-time branch member **Priscilla Brower**, whose son Larry also died in May. He held degrees in business and education from Monmouth University, and was a dedicated participant in his community, Monmouth Beach.



AAUW NetWorks
Northern Monmouth County Branch
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

AAUW

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October 5 Branch Meeting: "Your Autumn Reading List" and our scholarship winners

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. In principle and in 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. Membership is open to any graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Value Promise: "By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

AAUW Book Sale

The store is located at :
Old First Church
69 Kings Highway
Middletown



GRAND RE-OPENING:
September 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays
To volunteer: Anne Morrison 732-946-4584
Information: Viki Mischenko, Chair
732-933-4855

All profits go to local scholarships for women and to the AAUW Educational Foundation for fellowships for women.

Stay Connected!

AAUW www.aauw.org
AAUW-NJ www.aauwnj.org
AAUW-NMCB www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org
Branch phone 732-933-4855

Join the AAUW Action Network:
At www.aauw.org, click on "Quick Links" and drop down to "Join the Action Network." Non-members can participate too.

On-line Bookstore: www.bn.com/aauw

Meeting cancellation information:
Listen to 94.3 FM.