



AAUW

AAUW NetWorks

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

Volume 53, Number 4

February 2009

Presidents' Message

We thank all of you for bringing friends and spouses to our December meeting. We are most appreciative to Mary Anne Anderl for her extremely interesting program that was the highlight of the evening and melded so well with our pre-holiday socializing. Thank you to those who contributed to our bountiful table of homemade desserts, cheeses, and other treats.

Our nominating committee, chaired by Carol Quinby-Walther, is working on a new slate of officers for the 2009-2011 term, which begins in June. Many of our offices have been shared, and often a "co-position" can be more pleasant and may seem less daunting. We hope that you will be agreeable to serving if called upon.

Our branch will soon be planning for AAUW's 2009 National Convention, which will be held June 26-28 in St. Louis, Missouri. "Breaking through Barriers" is the theme of the convention as well as the current unifying focus for AAUW. The venue will be the St. Louis Renaissance Grand & Suites Hotel, which was once known as the Hotel Statler and, interestingly, was the backdrop for the historic convention of the National American Suffrage Association in March 1919. More information on the events will be forthcoming.

If you have not registered for the AAUW-NJ Issue Conference at Brookdale on January 24, it still may be possible to attend. The contacts from AAUW-NJ's website are Virginia Lyttle (lyttlevirginia@yahoo.com) and Adrienne Lesser (adrel@optonline.net).

We look forward to seeing you on February 2 when the program will focus on our branch's Battle of Monmouth history project.

(continued on page 6)

Branch Meeting

"Our History Book, Revolutionary Heroes, and a Horse"

Monday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m.
Junior League House

55 Center Street, Rumson
(Yellow house next to Rumson Police Station)

The History Book Committee has been busy since last April, when we launched *The Battle of Monmouth: A Young Woman Goes to War*. Come and hear how our project is progressing! We'll have slides of our day at the Battle of Monmouth Re-enactment, and you'll be able to see the horse we sponsored and its rider, Revolutionary War hero Colonel Cilley of the New Hampshire regiment.

The book is already being used in Freehold Township schools; we have plans to expand its use county-wide. But the program is not just about our project. We will also present the little-known story of Deborah Samson, the real-life Revolutionary War veteran who inspired our book's main character, Abigail. Of course, copies of the book will be available for purchase.

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

Board Meeting

Monday, January 26, 7 p.m. at Alice MacPhee's. Please note change of location from last month.

BRANCH OFFICERS 2008-2009

Co-Presidents	Alice MacPhee Marilyn Parker
Program VP	Mary Anne Anderl
Communication VP	Marian Wattenbarger
Educational Foundation VPs	Jeannette Molzer Carol Quinby-Walther
Financial VP	Barbara Williamson
Membership VPs	Mary Lea Burden Laura Noll
Public Policy VP	Joan Spring
Study Group VP	Barbara Sickman
Recording Secretary	Irene Gibson Barbara Iwanski

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 March issue are due on January 27 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

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 (NEW!)

Meets: Tuesday, January 20, 7:30 p.m. and
Tuesday, February 17, 7:30 p.m. at
Mary Anne Anderl's

Topic: Pre-Raphaelite subjects

Contact: Mary Anne Anderl

We hear and discuss presentations by members on selected art history topics; we also plan museum trips. New members are welcome!

Drama

Meets: Wednesday, February 11, at 1 p.m.

Topic: *Mary's Wedding* at Two River Theater

Meets: Wednesday, February 25, 9:30 a.m.

Topic: Discussion of *Mary's Wedding*

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.

Blog AAUW

Join the AAUW blog "AAUW Dialog" at
<http://blog-aauw.org>.

Support AAUW

and receive a 5% discount on your purchases at
Barnes and Noble. Go to www.bn.com/aauw.

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, January 13, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *Drug Crazy* by Mike Gray

Meets: Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *Living a Jewish Life* by Anita Diamant

Contact: Marilyn Parker

This group reads and discusses contemporary nonfiction to increase understanding and knowledge of current issues. New members welcome! Contact chair for location.

Italian Conversation

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

Contact: Jeannette Molzer
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, January 15, 2:30 p.m.

Topic: *Away* by Amy Bloom

Meets: Thursday, February 19, 2:30 p.m.

Topic: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora
Neale Hurston

Contact: Regina Sieben

We now meet in the daytime, usually on the third Thursday. A different member acts as a leader each month, and presents background and critical appraisal of that month's selection. We welcome new members who might find the change of time convenient. Please contact chair for meeting details.

Movies and More

Meets: Tuesday or Wednesday

Contact: Jeannette Molzer

We will meet in the afternoon during January, February, and March, at the request of several members. We'll have to feed the parking meters, but we also could enjoy a light supper at the diner. Hope this works for you. Contact chair to be put on list for receiving details, usually the week before. New members welcome!

Stock Study Group (NEW!)

Meets: Tuesday afternoon at Panera Bread

Contact: Carol Quinby-Walther

The group enjoys "lunch and learn" meetings and welcomes new members. Contact chair for details of next meeting. Also, please see page 7.

Membership**Don't Forget: Coffee, Dessert, and Conversation for New and Prospective Members:**

New and prospective members are invited for coffee, dessert, and conversation about AAUW and our branch activities. Plan to join us on Sunday, January 11, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Shrewsbury Historical Society, 419 Sycamore Avenue (in the Shrewsbury Municipal Complex). Please RSVP to Mary Lea or Laura if you plan to attend.

Welcome to our Branch!

Please welcome the following **new members** and add their contact information to your yearbook:

Mary Ellen Banfield

Brookdale Community College

Ghislaine Blomquist**Mary M. Bowen**

Brookdale CC; Monmouth University

Lucille Brothers

Univ. of the State of NY; Fordham, M.F.A.

Lisa Frost-Goodall

Harvard; Lesley University, M.Ed.

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of long-time branch member Bette Bates, who died on December 19 at the age of 88. Bette was a graduate of West Chester University, class of 1941. She was a teacher in the Middletown Township School district for 28 years, retiring in 1984 as a supervisor of English.

Please welcome back the following **renewed members** and add their contact information to your yearbook:

Susie Gordon

Vassar

Joan Norman

Stephens College; Mary Washington College; Monmouth University

Georgina Villa

Yearbook Corrections:

Please update the following email addresses in your yearbook:

Eleanor Christensen

Doris Hudak

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

Mary Lea Burden

Laura Noll

Co-Membership VPs

Public Policy

Celebrate Action Network Successes in 2008!

Over the past year, together, AAUW members have:

- Successfully advocated for the enactment of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, which contains many long-time AAUW priorities;
- Convinced the House to take the first critical

step toward strengthening and updating the Equal Pay Act with the passage of the Pay-check Fairness Act;

- Increased Senate support for the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act;
- Increased awareness of the pay gap through programming based on AAUW's Pay Equity Resource Kit;
- Ensured women's voices were heard on election day;
- Fought against anti-affirmative action ballot initiatives in several states and supported reproductive rights and paid sick day measures in other states and cities;
- Convinced the House to support work-life balance policies with the passage of the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act;
- Convinced both Congress and the White House to pass the GI Bill for the 21st Century, restoring promise of a four-year college education for post-9/11 veterans;
- Successfully pushed for passage of a new law that expands SMART grants to part-time students, the majority of whom are women;
- Sent tens of thousands of advocacy messages through AAUW's Two-Minute Activist, and 23,000 more letters from AAUW's Public Policy & Government Relations Dept.;
- Raised issues of importance to women at elected officials' town hall meetings across the U.S., and sent letters to editors of local papers on a variety of topics;
- Held members of Congress accountable for their votes using the *AAUW Congressional Voting Record*;
- Made 1,800 visits to members of Congress via our Capitol Hill Lobby Corps;
- Urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to make expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act a priority of the 111th Congress;
- Opposed a Bush administration regulation that would severely limit women's access to reproductive health and family planning services; and

- Shared our vision for the country with President-elect Obama, letting the incoming president and his team know that breaking through educational and economic barriers for all women should be on top of his agenda.

Resolve to take advantage of AAUW resources to make YOUR voice heard during 2009! Check out Two-Minute Activist, *Washington Update*, and AAUW Dialog (blog) at www.aauw.org.

Joan Spring
Public Policy VP

AAUW-NJ Update

Many AAUW-NJ events are being planned for us this year.

The statewide conference on “Achieving Pay Equity” will be held on January 24 at Brookdale Community College. Hopefully many of you will be attending this worthwhile day and learning ways to negotiate salaries and narrow the pay gap that is still a disappointing \$.77 for women compared to \$1.00 for men.

April 1 is the date for the statewide Teen Tech Conference to be held this year at the College of New Jersey. High school students participate in technology workshops and network with students from other schools. We encourage you to call with names of schools and students who would like to attend. Visit the AAUW-NJ website www.aauwnj.org.

Our branch is the largest in N.J., and, as they say, there is strength in numbers. Some very small branches are having difficulties filling leadership spots. These small branches are being offered the opportunity to partner with some larger branches as satellite branches. This is a trial solution that hopefully will help small branches grow.

President Ginny Lyttle is continuing the New

Jersey 100 Club for 2009. Any member who donates \$100 or 100 hours to AAUW (January to December) may be included. Visit the state website to send in your name.

During the next year state lobbying efforts will increase. A Two-Minute Activist for state issues will be installed soon on the state website. Throughout the year, branch and board members will be able to use this tool to lobby Trenton on important issues.

AAUW-NJ functions as an important link between branches and national in addition to providing statewide leadership on important events and issues.

Barbara Williamson
NMCB Finance VP and
AAUW-NJ EF Chair

LAF Expands Focus in 2008

Purpose: The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to prevent and combat sex discrimination and promote gender equity in higher education and the workplace through support of litigation and educational programs.



When LAF began in the 1980s, its purpose was “to engage in activities that would prevent sex discrimination and promote gender equity *in academia*.” In the summer of 2008, AAUW announced that LAF, which is a program of the Educational Foundation, would broaden the scope of its pursuits and expand case support “to break through educational and economic barriers so that *all women* have a fair chance.”

This means that, going forward, members’ investments in LAF will be available to help women in all workplaces, not just in academia.

Further, the intent will be to focus on *strategic* litigation. Instead of responding to individual litigants' applications for support, AAUW now works with other civil and women's rights groups to identify litigation that has strong potential for establishing precedent or significantly contributing to the advancement of equity or the reduction in discriminatory workplace practices. The goal is to protect other women against discrimination in the future. The support LAF provides may take the form of *amicus curiae* briefs or direct plaintiff support in strategic cases that have the potential to make a difference for all women.

LAF educational programs include working to combat sex discrimination through community and campus outreach programs, a resource library and online advocacy tools, and various research reports. More information on LAF, including a summary of current and past cases, is available at www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf/.

Pat Miller
LAF Representative

Educational Foundation

CJ Montana Fundraiser:

Thank you to everyone who attended our Dining for Dollars on November 19. Kate Bigg of the EF Committee received a check from the restaurant for \$184. We also received a \$50 donation from Susan Gelber, giving us a total of \$234 to benefit our scholarship fund. Thank you, Susan!

It was a wonderful evening; although cold and rainy outside, the restaurant was warm and festive, with AAUW friends at many tables. CJ Montana's also gave us four \$25 gift certificates that will be raffled off at branch meetings.

We look forward to a second dinner event on a Wednesday evening in the coming months. We'll be sure to let you know with advance notice as soon as we set the date.

Upcoming Events:

The EF Committee met earlier in the year to brainstorm about programs and events to entice our members to come out and join us in activities that are enjoyable and serve our AAUW mission. Suggestions included an ice cream social in June, a wine and cheese party with a book signing in September, and a wine tasting in October. Since "many hands make the work light," we are asking for your thoughts on these ideas and how to accomplish them. Our members are our best resource as we plan for the coming year.

Jeannette Molzer
Carol Q. Walther
Co-Educational Foundation VPs

Presidents' Message (cont. from p.1)

Members of the committee will give us an update on the introduction of our booklet, *The Battle of Monmouth: A Young Woman Goes to War*, into some of our local school districts, and also present us with a few other surprises. We look forward to seeing you then, and wish you joy and good health in 2009!

Alice MacPhee
Marilyn Parker
Co-Presidents



Brookdale, Spring 2009: A Community Resource

If you sign up for classes at Brookdale Community College, you learn something new, share ideas with others, meet people with similar interests, and shake off the winter doldrums. Once you get hooked, you can look forward to the next semester. I've been taking classes for three years – no exams, very little homework, and many new interests to explore. I've invited members of the Stock Study Group to join me in some of the finance classes; we have heard a diverse point of view from the instructors and enjoyed going out to school together.

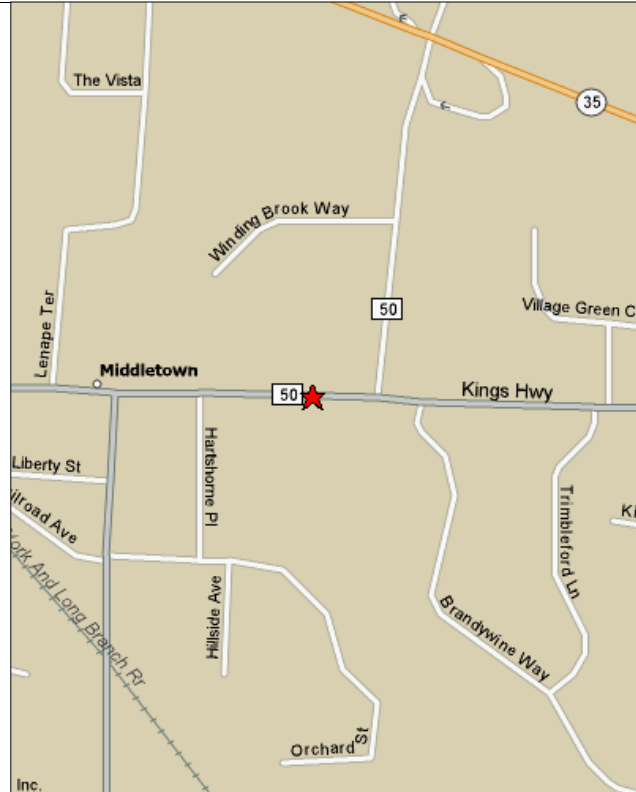
Brookdale offers non-credit classes in Lifelong Learning. If you've been thinking of taking a course, here is a short list of the Spring 2009 Semester classes that we are considering:

Sat. Feb. 28 9:30-1:30 Fee: \$45
Sweeten the Journey, “an exploration of the inspirational component in our lives.”

Wed. Mar. 11, 18, 25 6-8:30 p.m. Fee: \$59
Ideas that are Changing Lives, “practical tools for accessing inner resources...topics: the energy of feelings and needs; the wisdom of our bodies and the power of questions.”

Sat. Mar. 28 9:30-12:30 Fee: \$39
Stock Market Boot Camp, “the basics for understanding the stock market to advanced strategies on how to select stocks and manage risk” — financial education at its best: the instructor explains everything clearly (we've taken his classes before; bring a notebook!).

Tues. Apr. 7 & 14 7-9 p.m. Fee: \$69
Interior Design: the Value of Color and Fabric, “understanding the characteristics of color and how to use it will provide a wealth of design ideas. Add texture through the use of fabrics to totally change your environment.” This is one of a series that includes “The Magic of Space and Scale” and “Finishing Touches – Lights and Accessories.”



Book Sale Location

Old First Church, 69 Kings Hwy., Middletown

Fri. Apr. 3 & 17 9:30-12:30 Fee: \$45
Fire and Ice: Poetry of Robert Frost and T.S. Eliot, “two giants of 20th century poetry... look at the lives of each man and discuss how they discovered themselves as poets.”

Call if you'd like to join us! You can get a catalog or register by phone at 732-224-2315.

Carol Q. Walther

NetWorking

Branch members: Are you planning an exhibit of your art, needlework, or other craft? Are you giving a talk at a local venue? Are you being honored? Etc.? Send the details to Nancy Butler to share with other members in this column.



AAUW NetWorks
Northern Monmouth County Branch
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

AAUW

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Red Bank, NJ 07701
Permit No. 141

February 2 meeting: "Our History Book, Revolutionary Heroes, and a Horse"

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



Open: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays
Donations: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thursdays
To volunteer: Anne Morrison
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.

Meeting cancellation information:
Listen to 94.3 FM.
