

Celebrating Women Writers

Nobel Prize winner Wislawa Szymborska acknowledges in her poem "Some Like Poetry":

"Some -
Thus not all."

And Mary Ann Moore wrote a short version of her much longer poem "Poetry":

"I, too, dislike it ...
Reading it, however, with a perfect contempt
for it, one discovers in it, after all, a place for
the genuine."

No matter how you feel about poetry in general, in our presentation you will experience a wide range: some, no doubt, old friends; some perhaps unfamiliar; some meant to shock, some to amuse, some to inspire.

Back in the 7th century BC, the Greek woman poet Sappho had this advice, more than relevant today:

"If you are squeamish
Don't prod the
Beach rubble."

Some poets like to subvert popular opinion. The Russian poet Marina Tsvetaeva addresses
(continued on page 7)

And keep in mind ...

Thursday, April 18: Dining for Dollars
Branch fundraiser at Bertucci's, Route 35, Hazlet
See information in April *NetWorks*.

Friday, April 26: Brookdale Women's Conference
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Brookdale CC, Lincroft
See April *NetWorks*.

Friday, May 3: Running & Winning
Student conference at Monmouth Regional HS

Branch Program

"A Celebration of Women Writers"

directed by Caroline O'Neil

Monday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.
Eatontown Community Center
58 Broad Street (parking in rear)

Come join us for a program celebrating women writers across the ages and from around the world. Members of our branch will be joined by others in the community to present dramatic readings.



You will experience the wit, wisdom, and poetic magic of women's poetry (and a little prose).

NMCB member Caroline O'Neil has presented many programs like this one at the United Nations International School in New York City and the Upstairs Art Gallery in Tryon, NC. She is an examiner for the International Baccalaureate and a retired secondary English teacher. A graduate of Vassar, Caroline also holds an M.A. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia.

Guests are welcome. Please contact membership co-VPs Mary Lea Burden or Laura Noll if you need a ride.



Board Meeting

Monday, April 29, 7:30 p.m. at Kensington Court, 864 Shrewsbury Avenue, Tinton Falls. All branch members are welcome to attend.

BRANCH OFFICERS 2012-2013

Co-Presidents	Barbara Iwanski Joan Spring
Program VP	Annette Benanti
Study Group VP	Susan Gelber
Membership VPs	Mary Lea Burden Laura Noll
Development VP	Ruth Hodum JoAnne McWilliams
Public Policy VP	Rekha Datta
Communication VPs	Caroline O'Neil Catherine San Filippo
Finance VP	Pat Miller
Co-Recording Secretaries	Mary Ann Anderl Alice MacPhee

NetWorks is published monthly except January, July, August, and September by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Items for the June issue are **due on May 8** to: Nancy Butler, Editor

Our electronic mailing list enables us to inform you about opportunities for AAUW members that arise too late for publication in *NetWorks*. You can be sure that we carefully evaluate each notice before we send it out.

Please note that use of the branch e-mail list is for branch activities only. Members wishing to share other information with branch members are invited to submit a notice to the "Networking" column in *NetWorks*.

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

Presidents' Message

The Interbranch meeting, hosted by the Freehold Area Branch on March 14, was a great success with a large turnout, including a large contingent from NMCB. We enjoyed Kathi Bedow's informative and entertaining re-enactment of the early years of Eleanor Roosevelt. Also, the refreshments were varied and delicious! Kudos to **Susan Buccellato**, who recently joined our branch as a dual member and who played a large role in the success of the evening.

Next year will be our branch's turn to host the Interbranch meeting, which is held every March. If you have an idea for that program or for any other branch meeting, or can present a program yourself, please contact one of us or plan to attend the summer program planning meeting. The date will be announced in the June *NetWorks* and in an e-mail.

Author and branch member **Joanne Stankievich** invites AAUW members to her Book Launch Party on Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at the Monmouth Beach Cultural Center. The event is free, and light refreshments will be served. Her book *Living with a Scent of Danger: European Adventures at the Fall of Communism* describes how the author coped with communist police harassment and foreign minister warnings when her husband worked for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. We encourage all of you to attend and support a fellow branch member. Congratulations, Joanne!

Thank you to **Carol Walther**, who once again arranged a beautiful basket for the raffle held at the AAUW-NJ Annual Meeting on April 13.

The May branch meeting will take place on Monday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eatontown Community Center. "A Celebration of Women Writers across the Ages and the World" promises to be very entertaining. **Caroline O'Neil**, communications co-VP and writing study group chair, will direct dramatic readings of poetry and short prose. Plan to be there!

We are especially proud and pleased that the majority of our branch meetings this year have been presented by branch members. Our membership includes a great deal of talent in amazingly diverse fields.

We congratulate and express our thanks to the dynamic **Barbara Williamson**, who is active both in our branch and at the AAUW-NJ level, where she is executive vice president and has taken on an additional role as NJ regional field manager for \$tart \$mart. She has

Special thanks ...

Thank you to Doris Hudak, who has made a donation in the name of NMCB to the Brookdale Women's Conference, enabling our co-sponsorship of the event.

been instrumental in arranging Start \$mart workshops in the past few years at Brookdale Community College, Monmouth University, Georgian Court University, and now Douglass College, with help from several branch members. More details appeared in the April *NetWorks*.

The 7th Annual Running & Winning Workshop will take place on May 3 at Monmouth Regional High School. Branch member **Marian Wattenbarger** is once again co-chair of that event, while **Susan Boyce**, **Susan Gelber**, and **Joan Spring** are on the steering committee. Many branch members are involved in this event, and they will be thanked by name in the next *NetWorks*.

Barbara Iwanski
Joan Spring
Co-Presidents

Study, Action, Interest Groups

Advanced Spanish Conversation

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

Contact: Anita Damien

Some of us are native-born, and others are Spanish majors from American universities. We serve brunch, followed by different programs about Spanish culture. We have a covered-dish supper with our spouses in late spring. Call for meeting details.

Art History

Meets: Contact chair

Contact: Mary Anne Anderl

We meet to study and discuss global art of all periods and genres through member presentations and visits to museums, galleries, and outdoor art exhibitions. New members are welcome!

Drama

Meets: Wednesday, May 1, at Two River Theater

Topic: *2.5 Minute Ride* by Lisa Kron

Meets: Wednesday, May 22, place TBA

Contact: Marjorie Levy

We study plays, classical and modern, and attend performances when feasible. This year we are subscribing to Two River Theater in Red Bank. Prospective members are welcome to attend a meeting and/or join the

group for a matinee or weekend performance. Call or e-mail chair for details.

French Conversation

Meets: 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Contact: Kate Wellauer

Our group enables women with a good knowledge of the French language to maintain their fluency through conversation with other members, many of whom are native-born speakers. Others were educated in France or were French majors at American universities. 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 or e-mail chair for meeting details.

French Intermediate

Meets: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Contact: Anne Morrison

This group offers an opportunity to those with some experience in French to read, write, translate, and speak the language. French culture, customs, and current events are topics for our lively discussions. New members are very welcome! Call/e-mail for meeting details.

German Conversation

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

Contact: Walli Rosen

Our members come from German-speaking countries or have learned to speak German as an additional language. Our common goal is to improve our German language skills. We read about/discuss current events, contemporary German literature, and stories of common interest as suggested by members. Call for meeting details. New members are welcome.

Insights

Meets: Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *The Red Market: On the Trail of the World's Organ Brokers, Bone Thieves, Blood Farmers, and Child Traffickers* by Scott Carney

Contact: Ruth Hodum

This *nonfiction book group* focuses on current issues, with special attention to topics affecting women and books written by women. New members are very welcome! Contact chair for location.

Book Corner



Bill O'Reilly's *Killing*

Lincoln is a historical thriller that begins in the spring of 1865 and ends with the execution of the conspirators. It's a compelling read, and we were surprised to learn that there was a band of conspirators—not just Booth—and Lincoln was not their only subject.

The second book, *The Assassin's Accomplice*, dealt with the conspirators, mainly Mary Surratt. Surratt is the first woman executed by the United States government. Author Kate Larson is convinced of Surratt's involvement, even when the plan evolved from kidnapping to assassination. Was Surratt a victim caught up in the post-assassination frenzy, or was she guilty? This was just one of the "facts" about which O'Reilly and Larson disagree (and so did we).

— Cathy San Filippo

Literature

Meets: Thursday, May 16, 1 p.m. at Adelaide Swanson-Bonner's

Topic: *March* by Geraldine Brooks

Contact: Regina Sieben

Our group selects *literary fiction or an occasional memoir* to read during the year. 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: Kate Bigg

Once a month we view a movie at the Clearview Cinema in Red Bank and discuss it afterwards at the Broadway Diner. Contact chair to be put on the list for receiving details, usually the week before. Please join us!



Writing Group

Meets: Thursday, May 23, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
at Caroline O'Neil's, West Long Branch

Contact: Caroline O'Neil

This group consists of people interested in all kinds of writing, such as memoir, poetry, fiction, or essays. Members vary from those who write all the time to those who are just beginning, some working on longer pieces, some experimenting with a variety. We begin with lunch provided by different people each month. The meeting begins with a journal exercise, and then we listen to and discuss pieces or parts of pieces brought in by various members, or more finished pieces circulated and read in advance. Contact Caroline for info.

Membership

Membership for 2013-2014:

Membership runs from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014.

Current members: It will soon be time to renew your membership. AAUW friends: Would you like to join AAUW and the Northern Monmouth County Branch? Be part of a powerful national network that has been promoting equity for women and girls for 130 years. Play a part in your local branch that has served our area since 1928.

A separate dues notice will be mailed out shortly. Complete and return the membership form with your check so that your membership information will be listed correctly in our 2013-2014 Yearbook. Please consider including a donation to help defray branch expenses.

New Study Group Forming

A new STEM Study Group is forming to look at educational resources in Monmouth County and make recommendations to the branch on areas that would benefit from our support.

To join this study group, contact **Susan Boyce**, temporary chair. Many members are already reaching out to express their interest!

If you pay your dues by the final branch meeting of the year on June 3, your name will be entered in a **drawing for a free membership** (payment will be refunded). You need not be present to win, but it would be nice to see all our members at the Monmouth Beach Cultural Center on Monday, June 3.

Honorary Life Membership:

Congratulations to three new Honorary Life Members in our branch: **Joanne Jacoby**, **Alicia Portuondo**, and **Lois Wier**. The AAUW Bylaws state: "An individual member who has paid Association dues for fifty years shall become a life member and shall thereafter be exempt from payment of Association dues." In addition, both AAUW-NJ dues and our branch dues will be waived. If you think you might be eligible, please contact Mary Lea Burden, as she needs to file a form with the association to verify your eligibility.

Member Updates:

Regina Sieben has a new address and phone number; please update her entry in your yearbook:

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

Mary Lea Burden
Laura Noll
Membership Co-VPs

Among Ourselves

A celebration of the life of **Joan Brearley** will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2-5 p.m. at the Monmouth Beach Cultural Center, 128 Ocean Avenue. You are invited to join friends, family, and associates in an afternoon of sharing recollections of Joan and her life. R.S.V.P. by April 28 to Doris Hudak at 732-842-0785. Also, Doris is collecting anecdotes, stories, and photos for a keepsake booklet. They must be submitted by April 21.

Regina Sieben reports, "Since the status of Sea Bright is so unsettled, I have rented a condo. It is nice to have a roof and bed again." [See adjacent column; condo is in Middletown but has a Red Bank mailing address.]

Congratulations to **Pat Miller** and her husband Steve on the birth of their grandson (and first grandchild)

AAUW Book Sale

69 Kings Highway, Middletown
(Old First Church)

Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays

Donate: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays

Lionel Everett Burton on March 21 at Riverview Medical Center. Lionel and his parents JoEllen and John Burton live in Weehawken.

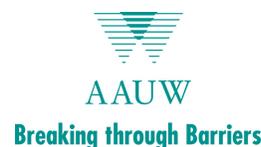
May is LAF Month

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to challenge sex discrimination in the workplace and higher education. Unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX are among the barriers LAF has been addressing, most recently fighting for passage of the Violence Against Women Act and the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Last year we began collecting funds through our study groups to help support LAF. We will be asking the study group leaders to do the same this year. If you are not a member of a study group but would still like to support this worthwhile AAUW program, you may send a check payable to "AAUW Funds" with "LAF" on the memo line to Ruth Hodum. All LAF donations are tax deductible.

Please consider supporting LAF to help balance the scales of justice for women.

Ruth Hodum
Development Co-VP



Thanks to Kensington Court...
for providing space for our board meetings this year.

 **KENSINGTON COURT**
Assisted Living and Adult Day Health Services

Tara Heisman
Marketing Associate

864 Shrewsbury Ave. • Tinton Falls, NJ 07724
Phone 732.784.2492 • Fax 732.784.2428
www.kensingtoncourt.net • Email: theisman@kensingtoncourt.net

Branch Archives

The branch is collecting documents and other records for our archives. In order to ensure that the archives are comprehensive, we are asking our members to search their personal collections of NMCB history to see if there are items that should be included in the archives. If you think that you might have some valuable paperwork, newspaper articles, photographs, etc., please contact one of us.

Marian Wattenbarger
Ruth Hodum

Public Policy Updates

NYC to Require Paid Sick Days

The New York City Council has reached an agreement to require paid sick leave. When the new law is in full effect, it would make it mandatory for companies with at least 15 employees to provide workers five days off per year when they are sick, so employees can stay home and recuperate without the threat of losing their jobs or pay.

SCOTUS Hears Marriage Equality Cases

The Supreme Court heard arguments about the constitutionality of California's Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act. These hearings brought the fight for marriage equality to the forefront of national news. Supporters of same-sex marriage, who believe that Proposition 8 should be overturned, say the law violates the constitutional right of equal protection under the law.

North Dakota Signs 6-Week Abortion Ban

Gov. Jack Dalrymple (R-ND) has signed the most restrictive abortion law in the country. The bill bans abortions in cases in which a fetal heartbeat is detected. In addition, North Dakota will vote on defining conception as the start of life, otherwise known as "personhood," in 2014.

Obama Appoints Julia Pierson as New Director of the Secret Service

President Obama has announced the appointment of Julia Pierson as director of the Secret Service. Pierson, who previously served as the chief of staff for the service, will be the agency's first female director. This is seen as an important change to the agency, which ran into controversy last year for the behavior of its agents on overseas trips.

More States Moving Toward School Vouchers

According to the *New York Times*, lawmakers across the country are seeking to give funds meant for public schools directly to individual families through voucher programs. Critics of the legislation point out this would take funds away from public schools while not necessarily providing better quality education for students and would leave many students without civil rights protections.

AAUW Joins the Clinton Global Initiative

AAUW is pleased to announce our new role as a strategic partner of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). Established in 2005 by former President Bill Clinton, the CGI convenes leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. From April 5-7, AAUW staff, a national AAUW cohort of 10 students, and many other AAUW student affiliates participated in the sixth annual meeting of the CGI University at Washington University in St. Louis.

Elect Her—Campus Women Win

February kicked off the spring 2013 cycle of Elect Her – Campus Women Win trainings. All across the country (and in Jamaica!), women at 38 campuses are gaining the skills and confidence needed to run for student government and political office. See the program in action by visiting our Elect Her page on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/ElectHer?ref=ts&fref=ts> or follow #ElectHer on Twitter and Instagram. Applications for 2014 trainings will be available this summer,



or follow #ElectHer on Twitter and Instagram. Applications for 2014 trainings will be available this summer; AAUW college/university partner member schools receive preference in the selection process.

Sign Up Your Friends and AAUW Colleagues for Action Network: Visit the Take Action page of the AAUW website <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/> where members and non-members alike can sign up for Action Network. It is an excellent way to introduce potential members to AAUW's advocacy.

Rekha Datta
Public Policy VP

Women Writers

(continued from page 1)

Hamlet:

"You, with your blend
of chalk and rot, you bony
scandalmonger, how can you ever
understand a fever in the blood?"

You will find new ways of looking at Lot's wife and Odysseus.

Edna St. Vincent Millay gives this rather unusual image of how to live:

"Safe upon the solid rocks the ugly houses stand:
Come and see my shining palace built upon the
sand!"

From 18th century Japan, Kaga na Chiyo presents a haiku, meditative and descriptive:

"The morning glory!
It has taken the well bucket,
I must seek elsewhere for water."

And the contemporary American Mary Oliver offers food for thought:

"I go down to the shore in the morning
and depending on the hour the waves
are rolling in or moving out,
and I say, oh, I am miserable,
what shall —
what shall I do? And the sea says
in its lovely voice:
Excuse me, I have work to do.

These are among the stimulating excerpts you'll hear at our May branch meeting. **If you would like to participate as a reader/actress at the meeting, please contact Caroline O'Neil, who is directing this celebration.**

— Caroline O'Neil

STEM Program

The April 8 branch program on STEM at Brookdale Community College featured a panel of experts in the education of girls and women and STEM employment:

- Susan Boyce, Ph.D., Microsoft
- Catherine Duckett, Ph.D., Monmouth University
- Susan Monroe, Ph.D., Brookdale CC
- Margaret Chappell, Ph.D., founder of The Stars Challenge.

Look for more coverage in the June *NetWorks*.

You can download the complete report *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics* online at www.aauw.org/what-we-do/research/.

Did You Know?

"The issue of self-assessment, or how we view our own abilities, is another area where cultural factors have been found to limit girls' interest in mathematics and mathematically challenging careers. One result of girls' lower self-assessment of their math ability—even in the face of good grades and test scores—and their higher standards for performance is that fewer girls than boys aspire to STEM careers."

— *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* (AAUW, 2010)





AAUW NetWorks
Northern Monmouth County Branch
P. O. Box 398
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Monday, May 6, Branch Program: “A Celebration of Women Writers”

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, 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.

AAUW Book Sale

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

Open: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays
Donations: 10 a.m. to 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

AAUW Action Network

<http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/>



AAUW, AAUW-NJ, and NMCB are on Facebook. Check them out!

Meeting cancellation information:

Listen to 94.3 FM.
