

AAUW NetWorks

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

Volume 54, Number 2

November 2009

Presidents' Message

Did you miss it? If you were unable to attend the September 13th program marking the reopening of our Book Sale, you missed a very special event. Charles Haas's first-person account of the Titanic enthralled us and elicited comments such as: "I felt as if I were there." "His stories were really fascinating, and some of them even gave me goose bumps." "Haas is a very talented scholar and teacher. His meticulous research kept the audience spellbound."

Thank you, **Kate Bigg**, for arranging to have your high school classmate present a stimulating afternoon for us. Displaying your yearbook showing high school pictures of you and Charles was an added attraction.

A great big thank you to **Carol Walther** for the delicious snacks and drinks: wine and cheese in abundance. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and many people took advantage of the opening of the Book Sale. Baskets of interesting books decorated the tables and stimulated sales.

To top it off, we added some names to our membership and mailing lists.

You don't want to miss out on this: On Monday, November 2, **Nancy Butler** will entertain and enlighten us with her presentation on True Colors. We also will meet Monmouth University student Aracelis Lantigua, who will tell us about her trip to Washington for AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

In the spirit of increasing our membership, we ask each one of you to bring a guest to our monthly meetings. That's how most of us became interested in AAUW. Won't you tell us your story?

Doris Hudak Barbara Iwanski Co-Presidents

Branch Meeting

Monday, November 2, 7 p.m. Eatontown Community Center, 58 Broad Street (Route 71)

"TRUE COLORS: Understanding Individual Strengths and Values" Nancy Butler

&

"2009 AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders" Aracelis Lantigua, Monmouth University

TRUE COLORS is a simple system of personality preferences (rooted in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) in which colors are used to identify four distinct personalities and perspectives.

Are you primarily blue (harmonious), gold (responsible), green (curious), or orange (adventurous)? In this interactive workshop, you will discover what motivates you and the important people in your life—spouse/partner, children, co-workers, friends—and how to use these insights to understand differences and optimize personal interactions.

Presenter Nancy Butler is an educational equity consultant now working on No Child Left Behind implementation for the NJ Department of Education. She has presented TRUE COLORS workshops for both school and community groups.

Also, Monmouth University senior Aracelis Lantigua will tell us about her experience at the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in June, what she learned there, and how she plans to use her new leadership skills on campus.

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

BRANCH OFFICERS 2009-2010

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Membership VPs Mary Lea Burden

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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 December-January issue are due on October 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, Membership VP



Wanted: Yearbook Editor for next year. Will train! Please contact Doris Hudak or Barbara Iwanski.

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

For November activities, please contact Mary Anne.

New members are welcome!

Drama

Meets: Wednesday, October 28, 1 p.m.
Topic: *Midsummer Night's Dream* at Two River

Theater

Meets: Wednesday, November 18 Topic: Discussion of the above

Contact: Marjorie Levy

New members are welcome to attend a meeting and/ or join the group for a matinee or weekend perform-

ance. 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, November 10, 7:30 p.m. Topic: *The Cruelest Miles* by Gay Salisbury

Contact: Marilyn Parker

This group reads and discusses contemporary nonfiction 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

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, October 15, 1:30 p.m.

Topic: Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Meets: Thursday, November 19, 1:30 p.m. Topic: *The Peppered Moth* by Margaret Drabble

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

Welcome to new member **Sherri Rao**, and welcome back to long-time member **Maureen Paoni**. Please add them to your Yearbook:

Sherri Rao University of Dayton

Maureen K. Paoni University of Bridgeport **Adelaide Swanson-Bonner** has a new email address: Please update your Yearbook.

We have received word that **Esther De La Solana** passed away in August. Esther was a member for many years and was active in the Spanish Conversation Group. We extend our sympathies to her family.

A reminder to our snow-bird members: You can keep in touch with Branch activities by receiving *NetWorks* at your winter address. Just send us the address and the dates you will be receiving mail there

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

Scholarship News



Branch scholarship winners introduced at the October branch meeting are (left) Katrina Howell of Neptune, Audrie LaTowsky Scholarship winner and student at Brookdale Community College, where she is pursuing her A.A. degree in Business Administration; and (right) Esther Boulos of Hazlet, Esther Hymer Award winner and student at Monmouth University, where she is a junior majoring in Political Science with a concentration in International Affairs.

Book Sale News

The season started off with a bang! The three weekends in September have netted us an above average amount of money. The fundraiser brought some business, which was a nice addition. Customers have welcomed us back with great enthusiasm, and business has been steady. Let's hope this trend continues through the year.

The volunteer schedule for Saturday staffing still has openings to be filled, so please call Anne Morrison if you have some time to give.

Viki Mischenko 732-933-4855 Book Sale Chair

Public Policy Update

UNESCO Elects First Female Chief

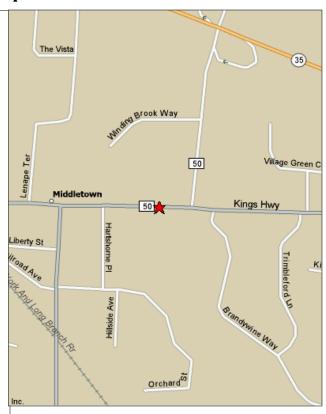
UNESCO, the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, elected its first female head in September. Irina Bokova, the former Bulgarian foreign minister, is also the current Bulgarian ambassador to France. A Saudi delegate said, "Women's equity, I think, is what won it over for Mrs. Bokova." UNESCO promotes international collaboration, events, and projects on education, science, and culture through specialized centers throughout the world.

Clinton Global Initiative Focuses on Narrowing the Gender Gap

This year's theme of the annual Clinton Global Initiative summit, which took place in New York City in September, focused on investing worldwide in women and girls in order to narrow the gender gap. Hosted by former President Bill Clinton, attendees at the event include global leaders from non-profits and government, current and former heads of states, prominent leaders of multinational corporations, and celebrities. President Obama spoke at the opening session.

All who attended will help with developing and funding ideas to aid global problems focused on women and girls, particularly in the areas of education and employment.

"In all the world there is only one strategy that clearly slows population growth, raises income, and promotes more social stability that is supported



Book Sale Location

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

across all religious and cultural lines," Clinton said. "And that is putting all the girls in school and giving all the young women access to the labor market."

For more information on AAUW's work to promote equity abroad, visit the International Corner, a drop-down under "About AAUW" on the homepage www.aauw.org.

Representatives Call for Gender Equity in Construction

Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Pete Stark (D-CA) recently sent a letter to Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis urging a reform of the affirmative action goals set in 1978 by the Office of Federal Contracts and Compliance Programs. Co-signed by 24 representatives, the letter asks that the goals set for female participation in the construction industry be recalculated using current census demographic data to reflect the current times.

The representatives argue that the federal government should ensure equal access to new jobs created by the American Investment and Recovery

Act and reaffirm the government's commitment to gender equity in the workplace. This reform will also increase the number of women in nontraditional occupations, which on average provide wages 30% higher than traditionally female-oriented occupations.

Healthy Families Act (H.R. 2460/S. 1152)

This legislation would provide full-time employees with seven paid sick days a year to be used for their own medical needs or to tend to the medical needs of a family member. It would also allow workers to use paid sick time to recover from or seek assistance related to an incidence of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault. Part-time employees would receive a pro-rated share of paid sick days.

Paid sick days are a public health issue. In these tough economic times, however, the decision to stay home without pay is a very difficult one. Without the enactment of the Healthy Families Act, it's also a decision that too many American workers may be forced to make this flu season.

Take Action! Urge your representative to cosponsor the Healthy Families Act to ensure American workers will be able to care for themselves and their families during times of illness. Simply click on the "Take Action" link on the AAUW homepage.

U.N. Votes to Create New Women's Agency

Three years after the 2006 original plan emerged from then-Secretary-General Kofi Anan, the General Assembly voted in September to create a new and more powerful women's agency. The resolution will merge four existing offices—the U.N. Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues, the U.N. Division for the Advancement of Women, and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)—into a single body devoted to women's equality and rights.

Supporters heralded this as a major breakthrough, as the new agency will have a larger budget and more clout than the existing offices.

The resolution also gives the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon a year to draw up a proposal that would specify the mission, organizational arrangements, funding, and executive board of the new women's agency. Accordingly, the new agency has the potential to make monumental strides for women and girls around the world, but its success will depend heavily on whether the Secretary-General's proposal receives the needed support from the many member states.

Again, find information at the International

Corner on the AAUW homepage: www.aauw.org.
Joan Spring
Public Policy VP

Former Branch Officers:

If you have in your possession one of the Red Books containing Bylaws and Policies/Procedures, please turn it in at a branch meeting or notify Doris Hudak or Barbara Iwanski.

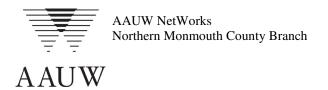
One Last Thing ...

Become an AARP Tax-Aide volunteer and learn a new skill. You will be trained and certified by the IRS to electronically prepare and file Federal returns. You also will be trained in preparing NJ forms. Training is in December and January, while the tax season is February 1 to April 15. There are non-computer volunteer opportunities as well. For more information, go to www.aarp.org/taxaide or ask branch member **Madeline Fedak**.

Book Corner

The **Insights Interest Group's** recommendation for this month is *The Golden Spruce* by John Vaillant. The title refers to a unique, giant tree on one of the Queen Charlotte Islands, which are separated from western British Columbia by a dangerous strait. The 300-yearold tree was worshipped by local Haida Indians. In an act that shocked everyone who heard about it, the tree was cut through with a chainsaw in 1997. Although the perpetrator was not caught, the book describes the life of the man who is the most probable suspect, a local lumberman who became an extreme environmentalist. In the telling, Vaillant also describes the invasion of outsiders; their interactions with the Haida, especially through fur trading; and the history of logging, the primary industry in the area. The book is written in such a way that it kept our interest throughout

> Marilyn Parker Insights Chair



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November 2 Branch Meeting: "TRUE COLORS: Understanding Individual Strengths and Values"

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, you 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. 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

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.