



AAUW NetWorks

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

Volume 56, Number 4

February 2012

2011 NMCB Member of the Year: Susan Gelber

It is the need for equity for women, in education and in all fields, that drives Susan Gelber's commitment to AAUW, she says. Chosen Member of the Year by the Northern Monmouth County Branch, Susan is always involved in AAUW activities, from serving as Study Groups VP and as an active member of the branch board, including chairing the nominating committee, to her involvement with Running and Winning and serving on the board of AAUW-NJ.

Living most of her life in New Jersey, Susan attended Montclair State and Seton Hall, where she received her M.A. in speech. Although she was not very happy at those institutions ("the wrong places for me"), she acknowledges that she received a fine education. "Of course, at that time, the only careers open to me were nursing, teaching, or secretarial work," Susan says. And most schools did not have speech programs then, so right after college she was hired as a teacher of English, the field in which she had minored. However, the far-sighted superintendent of the East Brunswick School District offered her the challenge of starting a speech program. "It was a great opportunity," Susan acknowledges, although it only lasted three years.

Living at the time in Freehold, where she did not know anyone, she seized the opportunity to join the Jersey Shore Branch when they

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Branch Program

**"Patriots Without Petticoats:
Women of the Civil War"**
with Glenn LeBoeuf

Monday, February 6, 7 p.m.
at Kensington Court
864 Shrewsbury Avenue, Tinton Falls

AAUW members and the public are invited to attend our first program event of 2012 at 7 p.m. on February 6 at the Kensington Court facility on Shrewsbury Avenue. (See directions on page 7.)

Perhaps dozens or hundreds of women hid their gender to follow husbands, brothers, or just their nation's flag into the storm of Civil War. Some were discovered relatively quickly. Others fought and fell throughout the war. Some were known only after their deaths, decades later. Glenn LeBoeuf, historian and Civil War expert, will share the strange stories of concealment, service in battle, and discovery of these patriots without petticoats.

Glenn, a life-long resident of New Jersey, received his degree in history from Monmouth University in 1976, and taught social studies in New Providence, NJ, from 1977 to 1979. A passionate student of history, he was active in Civil War reenactment from 1989-2001 and was a reenactment coordinator in one of the largest Civil War reenactments, involving 23,000 participants. He has participated in films such as *Glory* (1990) and *Gettysburg* (1993), and has been speaking on historical topics for more than 25 years.

This promises to be an entertaining and inspiring evening for all!

—Annette Benanti, Program VP

Board Meeting

Monday, January 23, 7 p.m. at Kensington Court, 864 Shrewsbury Avenue, Tinton Falls. All members are welcome to attend.

BRANCH OFFICERS 2011-2012

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
Public Policy VP	Rekha Datta
Communication VPs	Caroline O'Neil Catherine San Filippo
Finance VP	Pat Miller
Co-Recording Secretaries	Alice MacPhee Karen Topham

NetWorks is published monthly except January, July, August, and September by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Items for the February issue are due on February 17 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

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a happy and healthy holiday season.

We look forward to a year of interesting programs to excite our members and get them involved in branch activities. We start the year with a new program in a **new location**. Our February 6th branch meeting will be on Women of the Civil War, presented by Glen LeBoeuf, at a new meeting location, Kensington Court, 864 Shrewsbury Avenue in Tinton Falls. See the program information in this issue for details and directions.

Our 2011 Member of the Year is a very worthy recipient, **Susan Gelber**. We congratulate and thank Susan for all she has contributed to AAUW. She has held numerous positions in the branch, including Co-President, and is currently Study Group Vice President. She is a vigorous supporter of AAUW at all levels.

In December, we had a glitch in our annual fundraising program when Janet Zapata became ill and could not do her program, but we were thankful to have Tom Ainsworth step in at the last moment and do his presentation on Lizzie Borden. Although it was not our holiday fundraiser, we had our program with lots of excellent holiday refreshments to start the season. Thanks to **Annette Benanti** for her perseverance in arranging this event.

Our branch is now on Facebook, thanks to the efforts of **Robin-Lyn Williamson** and **Heather Balczarek**, our co-administrators. When you go on our website, you can click on a link to Facebook and view some photos Robin-Lyn posted there from our December branch meeting. If you have a Facebook account, you can "like" these photos.

We thank all our members who worked hard to make 2011 a successful year for the branch and look forward to following with another successful year in 2012.

Joan Spring
Barbara Iwanski
Co-Presidents



Susan Gelber

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reached out to her. She quickly joined the board. After her marriage, however, she moved to Plainfield, where the branch was a kind of closed society, dominated by older women she found somewhat intimidating at the time. For a while she was a member-at-large.

Then, in the early 1970s, Susan found that the

Save the Date!

The Interbranch Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, will take the place of our branch meeting that usually occurs during the first week of the month.

Details will appear in the March *NetWorks*, which will be published during the third full week in February.

Plainfield Branch had changed and become more open, and she became actively involved in it. She served as membership VP, taking on the presidency when the current officer was transferred, and later being elected president on her own. For a long time, Susan held a dual membership in the Plainfield and Northern Monmouth Branches, joining the latter under the influence of Jeannette Molzer, whom she met through her job in real estate.

Susan is very enthusiastic about Running and Winning, an annual workshop sponsored by a consortium of women's organizations including AAUW. Girls who are juniors in local high schools, 60 per year, get an understanding of the political process through a series of activities. NJ Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno always attends and is an inspiration to the group, Susan says.

Among the goals Susan identifies for the local branch are: getting study group members more involved with the regular activities, such as the monthly meetings; finding some kind of funding for members who might be discouraged by the financial requirements of membership; and adding committees to alleviate some of the pressures on officers and board members.

The main goal on a larger scale, Susan says, is to arrive at a time when we will no longer need to say "the first woman...", and when women will earn as much as men and have the same opportunities.

"Being Member of the Year is a great honor," Susan concludes. "I am very grateful and hope I can live up to the honor."

—Caroline O'Neil

Study, Action, Interest Groups

Advanced Spanish Conversation

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

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: Please contact chair for February activities
Contact: Mary Anne Anderl

We meet to study and discuss global art of all peri-

ods and genres, through member presentations and visits to museums, galleries, and outdoor art exhibitions. New members are welcome!

Bridge

Contact: Niobe Schabert

A new group has formed. Players and their friends are welcome to join. This is a fundraiser for our branch scholarship funds.

Drama

Meets: Wednesday, February 8
Topic: *Jitney* by August Wilson at Two River Thr.
Meets: February 29 at 1 p.m. at Peg Post's
Contact: Marjorie Levy

We study plays, classical and modern, and attend performances when feasible. This year we plan to subscribe 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/e-mail for details.

French Conversation

Meets: 2nd & 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 for meeting details.

Book Corner



The December meeting found Insights members discussing the life of Louisa May Alcott as portrayed in biographies written by Susan Cheever, a Pat Squire recommendation, or Helen Reisen, the source of a documentary on Alcott. Other members chose to read a different work by Alcott other than the well-known *Little Women*. The various choices provided material for an informative evening.

Ruth Hodum, Insights Chair

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, February 14, 7:30 p.m.
 Topic: *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains* by Nicholas Carr
 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.

Italian Conversation

Meets: Please contact chair
 Contact: Linda Lees
 Fran Unger

Our aim is to improve our knowledge of the Italian language. We would like to feel at ease in conversation and to make Italian travel easier. Our group enjoys studying the customs, culture, and people of modern-day Italy. We would love to welcome new members; please call/e-mail for information.

Literature

Meets: February 16 at 1 p.m.
 Topic: *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave
 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, January 26, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
 at Caroline O'Neil's in West Long Branch
 Contact: Caroline O'Neil

This group welcomes anyone interested in writing of any kind, such as memoir, poetry, fiction, essays. Members range from those who write all the time to those who think it might be time to begin and many stages in between. We begin with lunch provided by different people each month. The main meeting begins with a journal exercise; then anyone who has a piece of writing to share, short or long, reads it and listens to response from the group, directed or not, as the writer prefers. Call chair if you are interested.

**Membership****New and Renewing Members:**

We welcome new member **Rebecca Dorn** to our branch. Rebecca teaches 5th grade literacy and social studies. Please add her contact information and that of renewing member **Lourdes Zeik** to your yearbook.

Rebecca Lee Dorn**Lourdes Zeik****Coffee & Conversation for New & Prospective**

Members: We invite all new and prospective members to an afternoon of "Coffee and Conversation" about AAUW and our branch activities. It will be held on Sunday, January 22, at 3:00 p.m. at the Shrewsbury Historical Society, 419 Sycamore Avenue (in the Municipal Complex).

Tax deduction for AAUW dues - a reminder when it comes time to prepare your taxes: \$46.00 of the regular national AAUW dues of \$49.00 is tax deductible for payments made to "AAUW," our 501(c)(3) charitable organization. \$3 of regular dues is not tax deductible as it goes to support the AAUW Lobby Corps and election-related activities. The state and branch portions of membership dues are not tax deductible.

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

Mary Lea Burden
Laura Noll
Co-Membership VPs

Among Ourselves

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Priscilla Brower**, whose husband Edwin died on January 4 at the age of 88. A decorated World War II veteran, he was an electrical engineer at Fort Monmouth for 40 years and a long-time member of the Monmouth Beach zoning board.

Joan Spring's mother, Ruth Gottlieb, died on November 30 at the age of 96. She had lived a full life and was in her own apartment and lucid through her final days. We extend our deepest sympathy to Joan and family.

Barbara Williamson has been recovering from a fractured femur that she sustained when she was traveling in Iceland in November. Fortunately, the medical care was excellent in the hospital where she spent eight days, and she is making good progress with physical therapy.

\$START \$MART: Our C/U Connection

Start \$mart workshops will be presented at local C/U (college/university) member campuses on March 22 and 23. Our branch is partnering with Monmouth University, Brookdale Community College, and Georgian Court University to plan and execute \$start \$mart sessions where their students will learn how to negotiate effectively for \$alaries.



Branch co-presidents Joan Spring (l) and Barbara Iwanski (r) presented Susan Gelber with the Member of the Year Award at the December branch meeting.

(Photos by Robin-Lyn Williamson)

Annie Houle, the Wage Project's National Director for Campus and Community Initiatives, is our lead trainer for the workshops at each school. A special thank you to our C/U campus representatives for their enthusiasm and commitment to this project and AAUW issues:

- Catherine Duckett, Assoc. Dean of the School of Science at Monmouth University;
- Karen Goff, Dean of Students at Georgian Court University; and
- Avis McMillon, Manager of Public Relations at Brookdale Community College.

AAUW research shows that one year after graduation, women earn just 80 percent of the salaries that their male counterparts earn, and the gender wage gap widens over the next 10 years. A woman graduating today will earn roughly \$1 million less than her male counterpart over the course of their careers because of this gap. The \$start \$mart salary negotiation workshop empowers college women to overcome the gender wage gap and teaches them to benchmark and negotiate a fair and equitable salary when they enter the job market.

During the three-hour workshop, a student receives a student workbook and participates in a hands-on session to learn the steps for benchmarking salaries and the skills for negotiating well. At the end of the session, the student will feel empowered to ask for and receive what she is worth.

Although we perceive that women have made great strides for equality, inequality still exists. Women who work full-time earn 77 cents for every dollar men earn. Salaries are usually kept secret at companies. As

Lily Ledbetter stated at our AAUW-NJ conference, she was tipped off with a note in her locker at the end of her employment with Goodyear that she had been earning significantly less than her male counterparts for the same job.

The C/U Connection strengthens AAUW and is our future: student e-members become adult members. By bringing \$tart \$mart to our C/U partner institutions, we are carrying out the AAUW mission for students. As we have seen with our student scholarship recipients, our experience and mentoring is valued.

We hope you will contact us about volunteering to assist with \$tart \$mart workshops, such as handing out materials or checking in students. You also could be trained as a \$tart \$mart facilitator: the charge is \$50, and you will receive materials and training after watching the student workshop.

Please join us for our C/U Connection \$tart \$mart project!

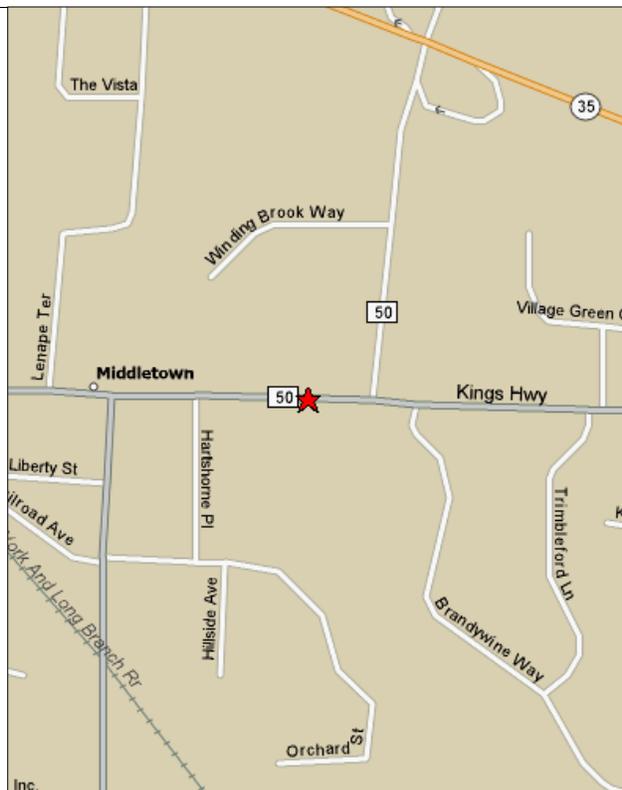
Isabel Kupilik
Barbara Williamson
Scholarship Co-Chairs



Public Policy

Women's Labor Participation Rate Lowest in Almost 20 Years: Women continue to struggle more than men in the post-recession job market. Bureau of Labor Statistics data released in December showed that the unemployment rate decreased in November – to 8.6% -- and that women gained more than half of the 120,000 jobs added. Yet the Institute for Women's Policy Research analyzed the new data and found that the job gap between men and women remains significant at 1.5 million jobs. Of the 1.6 million jobs added between November 2010 and November 2011, IWPR found that 474,000 were filled by women and 1,126,000 were filled by men. In addition, the female labor force participation rate fell from 58.2% in October to 57.9% in November – a decrease of more than 300,000 women and the lowest female labor force participation rate since September 1993. Female dropouts have exceeded male dropouts recently in part because state and local government layoffs have disproportionately hit women.

AAUW believes that to promote economic



Book Sale Location

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

recovery, the President and Congress must focus on creating jobs, training our workers, and ensuring that those jobs are good ones — the kind that pay equitably and provide economic security. AAUW strongly believes that access to high-wage, high-skill jobs should be a right for women and girls from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, age, and disability backgrounds and that access includes training for nontraditional jobs. Additionally, any job creation legislation must promote equal pay — women who work full time earn about 77 cents on average for every dollar men earn.

Education Department Releases Data on Bullying Laws, Policies: A new U.S. Department of Education report shows that from 1999 to 2010 more than 120 bills were passed by state legislatures to either introduce or amend statutes that address bullying in schools. Twenty-one new bills were enacted in 2010 and eight additional bills were signed into law through April 30, 2011. The report, *Analysis of State Bullying Laws and Policies*, summarized current methods in the 46 states with anti-bullying laws and the 41

states that have created anti-bullying policies as models for schools. AAUW submitted comments to the Department of Education that helped shape the survey.

AAUW advocates passing legislation to better address bullying and harassment. These measures should include the Office for Civil Rights' definition of harassment and identify the classes that are protected (including actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion).

Take Action! Ask your senators to stand up for students and cosponsor the Safe Schools Improvement Act (S.509). <http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=56292506>

Senate Blocks Obama's Appointments: The Senate has blocked the confirmation of two Obama administration appointees. Caitlin Halligan, who was slated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals in DC, and Richard Cordray, who was to be the first director of the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, both failed to get the 60 votes necessary to avoid a filibuster. The Obama administration expressed its frustration following Cordray's failed confirmation, stating that opposition to the nominees, both seen as highly qualified, "makes absolutely no sense." [Update: President Obama has made recess appointment of Mr. Cordray.]

AAUW monitors the judicial nominations process because so many of our fundamental rights and liberties have been established and are protected by the federal courts. Our courts need judges who will uphold our constitutional values of liberty, equality, and justice for all. This is the best way to ensure that the clock is not turned back on decades of progress that has been achieved for women and girls.

Take Action! Ask your senators to help protect our freedoms by moving forward with judicial confirmations! AAUW is hosting a conference call on January 11 on the topic of the judicial appointments.

High School Students Underprepared for Workforce: A new study has found that upon graduation two-fifths of high school students are not prepared for traditional college or for career training. "The Underserved Third: How Our Educational Structures Populate an Educational Underclass" from researchers at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Arizona indicates that "one-third of

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Special thanks to Kensington Court for providing a location for some of our meetings this year!

864 Shrewsbury Avenue, Tinton Falls, is located on the west side of Shrewsbury Avenue less than a half mile south of Sycamore Avenue. The entrance is south of the entrance to Winding Brook and north of the traffic light at Barker Avenue.

Find a map at <http://ww.kensingtoncourt.net/directions.html>

high school students complete the modern college-preparatory track, and another one-quarter graduate from career-preparatory programs. The remaining high school population, an estimated 40%, do neither." The researchers report that this unprepared group is "a virtual underclass of students," many of whom finish high school with a transcript full of general education courses and few prospects for success either in traditional college or in professional training.

AAUW advocates providing students with education, training, and support for success in the work force, including nontraditional occupations. Furthermore, AAUW actively works to strengthen educational programs, including "vocational education to improve postsecondary education access, career development and earning potential."

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

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

Monday, February 6, Branch Program: "Patriots Without Petticoats: Women of the Civil War"

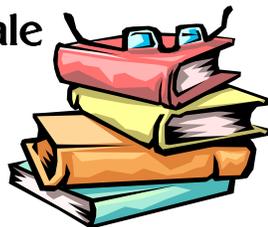
AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, 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.

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!

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Branch phone 732-933-4855

AAUW Action Network

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



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

Meeting cancellation information:

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