

# **AAUW NetWorks**

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

Volume 56, Number 5

March 2012

# Our College/University Connection

NMCB is working with our Interbranch partners to strengthen our connections to local colleges and universities. Together with Northern Ocean County and Freehold Area Branches, we are bringing \$tart \$mart workshops to Brookdale Community College, Monmouth University, and Georgian Court University. We are participating in the planning, funding, and leadership at the workshops.

What is \$tart \$mart? It is an AAUW/WAGE Project workshop designed to benchmark starting salaries for new graduates and teach skills for negotiating fair salaries. The three-hour workshops will help the students understand the personal consequences of the wage gap and learn how to benchmark compensation packages, practice negotiation skills, and develop personal budgets.

With pay equity still an issue, women earn only 77 cents to the dollar that men earn. In the workshops students will learn that if they start their careers behind in salary, they could lose more than \$1,000,000 in their lifetime.

\$tart \$mart dates are March 22 at Brook-dale and Monmouth, and March 23 at Georgian Court. AAUW members will have the opportunity to be trained as facilitators after the workshop. Contact us for more information.

Annie Houle, the WAGE Project's national director of campus and community initiatives and an AAUW member, will facilitate the workshops. Her winning personality brings a good spirit to the negotiating workshops.

In addition to \$tart \$mart, AAUW member colleges and universities have access to numerous AAUW resources, including fellowships and grants, Campus Action Projects grants, Elect Her—Campus Women Win, Legal

(continued on page 3)

## Interbranch Program

**"Vanities"** with Guild Theatreworks

Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. (play at 7) at The Chelsea 458 Jack Martin Blvd, Brick

Northern Ocean County Branch will host the Freehold Area Branch and NMCB for this annual Interbranch meeting. "Vanities," a comedy about women and friendship, will be presented by Guild Theatreworks, a community theater group that got its start as Brick Community Players in 1990.

Find a map on our website www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org.

Please consider bringing a personal care item (shampoo, conditioner, lotions, toothpaste, brushes, etc.) to be donated to Redeem-Her, which provides successful transitions for recently incarcerated women so that they can become valued and contributing members of society.

## **Board Meeting**

Monday, February 27, 7 p.m. at Kensington Court, 864 Shrewsbury Avenue, Tinton Falls. All members are welcome to attend.

## Save These Dates

Friday, April 13 — NMCB cosponsors the Brookdale 2012 Women's Conference (tickets go fast!) Brookdalecc.edu/womensconference

Saturday, April 14 — AAUW-NJ Annual Meeting, Forsgate Country Club, Monroe Township

#### **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 Alice MacPhee Secretaries Karen Topham

*NetWorks* is published monthly except January, July, August, and September by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Items for the April issue are due on March 9 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

## March is Women's History Month

AAUW is partnering with the National Women's History Project and a host of other organizations to provide resources on this year's focus:
"Women's Education—Women's Empowerment."
Visit www.nwhp.org.

Also visit www.aauw.org to see how AAUW is making women's history.

## Presidents' Message

On January 22, **Mary Lea Burden** and **Laura Noll**, our very able membership co-vice presidents, conducted a well-attended and enjoyable "Coffee and Conversation" at the Shrewsbury Historical Society. We want to thank the many board members who participated and explained their roles to the new and prospective members. We hope the prospective members who attended will join our branch.

Our February branch meeting, "Women of the Civil War," was well attended, and we enjoyed learning from our speaker Glenn LeBoeuf about women who served secretly, disguised as men, in the military. We want to thank Program VP Annette Benanti for arranging this excellent program, and our meeting coordinators, Harriet Moore and Joanne McWilliams, for hospitality and delicious refreshments.

March promises to be an eventful month for our branch. Our annual Interbranch meeting will be held on March 20, hosted this year by the Northern Ocean County Branch. We hope many of you will attend, support our sister branch, and enjoy networking with members from that branch and the Freehold Area Branch.

Our tireless and hard-working scholarships chairs, **Barbara Williamson** and **Isabel Kupilik**, have planned and scheduled \$tart \$mart workshops on March 22 at Brookdale Community College in the morning and at Monmouth University that afternoon. The next day, March 23, a workshop will be held at Georgian Court University. Barbara has arranged for Annie Houle, our WAGE Project/\$tart \$mart facilitator, to fly here to run all three workshops. Find more details about this exciting and greatly anticipated event in the article on page 1.

Check out the April issue of *Vogue Magazine*, which comes out in March, for a letter to the editor written by our special projects chair, **Wendy Murphy**, with NMCB mentioned after her name. Congratulations, Wendy! The letter comments on an interview with Meryl Streep that was published in the January issue of *Vogue* and that relates to part of our branch's book, *The Battle of Monmouth: A Young Woman Goes to War*.

We would like to thank branch member **Penny North**, who made a generous donation to national AAUW that has been credited to our branch.

**Joan Spring** is grateful to the branch for the card sent after the death of her mother, and to the many members who visited, sent cards or food, called, or e-mailed. Your kindness and support were greatly appreciated.

Joan Spring Barbara Iwanski Co-Presidents

## C/U Connection (continued from page 1)

Advocacy Fund Campus Outreach grants, Equal Pay Day, and groundbreaking reports. Our goal is to continue to build partnerships and friendships with students, professors, and our college liaisons, and to strengthen our links with potential younger members. Students can become e-student affiliates through their member college or university. They have told us that they value our experience and knowledge and would like to be mentored by us.

All of us would like to see a strong future for AAUW, and we believe that our C/U partnerships help achieve this goal.

#### What do these terms mean?

C/U ...... College/University

WAGE ..... National project to end gender wage gap

(Women Are Getting Even)

CAP..... Campus Action Project

Title IX ..... 1972 legislation banning sex discrimina-

tion in schools receiving federal funding

\$tart \$mart ..AAUW/WAGE Project workshops on negotiating and benchmarking salaries

STEM ...... Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

E-student affiliate.....Free membership for students at member college/university

NCCWSL .. National Conference for College Women Student Leaders ("nick-whistle")

> Isabel Kupilik Barbara Williamson Scholarship Co-Chairs C/U Connection

## 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 March activities

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!

#### 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: February 29 at 1 p.m. at Peg Post's

Meets: March 14 at 1 p.m.

Topic: *In This House* at Two River Theater

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

## **Book Corner**

In Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in

American History, S.C. Gwynne provides a graphic account of the battle for the American West between white settlers and the Comanche. It is also the story of Cynthia Parker, a white girl, who was kidnapped by the Comanche and raised by them. She ultimately married a chief and gave birth to Quanah Parker, the last and greatest chief of the Comanches.

Ruth Hodum, Insights Chair

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.

#### 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, March 13, 7:30 p.m.
Topic: In the Garden of Beasts by Eric Larson

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: March 15 at 1 p.m.

Topic: Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

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, February 23, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

at Caroline O'Neil's

Contact: Caroline O'Neil

This group is designed for anyone interested in writing of any kind. Members range from lifelong writers to beginners to people returning after a hiatus. We meet for three hours to allow time for lunch, socializing, and discussion of the writing. Each session begins with some journal writing. If interested, try it out—come to listen and respond and enjoy. Contact Caroline.



## Membership

#### New and Renewing Members:

We welcome new members Mariana Pedro-Medlin and Victoria Snoy to our branch. Please add their contact information and that of renewing member Katherine Overby to your yearbook.

#### Mariana Pedro-Medlin

Seton Hall Univ., Pace Univ. School I

School Psychologist Literature, Farming

Victoria Snoy

Northwestern Univ.

Exec. Dir. of Non-Profit Art, Fiction, Travel, Reading

**Katherine Overby** 

Member Updates:

**Margaret Post** recently moved; please update her address and e-mail in your yearbook.

Caroline O'Neil has a new e-mail address.

The Coffee and Conversation for New & Prospective Members held on Sunday January 22 was a success. We had 15 board members in attendance with 9 new and prospective members. Two of the prospective members have joined our branch. We want to thank all those who attended and shared in the success.

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**

Our features writer **Caroline O'Neil** has been under the weather. We wish her well and look forward to her return!

The Two River Times recently reported that **Alexandria Matz,** our 2010-2011 Esther Hymer Scholarship recipient, is on the Dean's List at Monmouth University. Congratulations, Alexandria!

Branch member **Sheila Weisfeld** died in December after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. A graduate of Long Island University, she worked in the family business, VPI Industries, and was an active volunteer for the Girl Scouts. We extend our condolences to her family and friends.



Carmen Schultheis, recipient of our Audrie LaTowsky Scholarship, is shown with her "18th Century Functional Corset with Crinoline" at the Monmouth Museum's 33rd Annual Juried Art Exhibition. Carmen says, "This was one of the most impressive art exhibitions I have seen at the Monmouth Museum; I am glad my work was selected to be part of it."

## **NetWorking**

Joan Spring conducted a workshop on January 26 at the Red Bank Library for the Literacy Volunteers of Monmouth County with another retired speech/language pathologist, Carol Salomon. Their topic was "How to Speak American English: Pronunciation, Stress, and Intonation." Among the LV tutors in attendance were branch members Linda Beltran and Isabel Lopez-Kupilik. The workshop featured an interactive approach, with handouts, demonstrations, and strategies for the tutors to use with their learners.



## Public Policy

State of the Union Conference Call: On January 25, there was a conference call by the White House Office of Public Engagement focusing on President Obama's State of the Union speech and the administration's priorities in the coming months. The summary points of the speech were discussed, including: creation of jobs, bringing jobs back to the country, clean energy and healthy economy, extending payroll tax cuts, refinancing homes proposals, strengthening American values, and equal pay for equal work, or the Paycheck Fairness proposals.

**Budget Request:** President Obama has released his FY2013 budget request, which calls for \$350 billion in stimulus money to add jobs, maintain lower payroll taxes, and rebuild infrastructure while delaying efforts to reduce the national debt. His budget makes nominal cuts to federal health-care programs and no changes to Social Security.

Although AAUW was pleased the president's budget contained no substantive cuts to federal education programs, AAUW is disappointed that the budget proposal would dramatically reduce the budget and the role of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor, the only federal office exclusively concerned with serving women in the workforce, slashing the bureau's budget by 22% and its full-time staff by nearly 37.5%. AAUW will continue to work toward pay equity, and we hope to work with the Obama administration on this goal. Yet the key to this pathway is the full funding of the Women's Bureau and recognition of its important role in promoting pay equity for America's women.

# Administrators Support Federal Title IX Guidance: The Association of Title IX Administrators, a group responsible for ensuring gender equity on campuses, declared their support for an Office for Civil Rights' "dear colleague" letter clarifying that sexual harassment of students, including acts of sexual violence, are prohibited under Title IX.

AAUW strongly supports Title IX and opposes any efforts that would weaken its effectiveness or undermine its enforcement. The "dear colleague" letter provided important guidance to schools about how to comply with Title IX and protect students from sexual harassment and violence.

**86** Million Benefited from Expanded Prevention Coverage in 2011: Approximately 86 million people, either with private health insurance or enrolled in Medicare, took advantage of the Affordable Care



## **Book Sale Location**

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

Act's prevention benefits last year, according to two reports released by the Obama administration. As implementation of the health care law continues, AAUW will focus on the need for access and affordability—in a way that is equitable to women.

### AAUW Action Fund Launches 'It's My Vote'

Campaign: The AAUW Action Fund launched "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard," a nonpartisan voter education and turnout effort that aims to maximize the electoral power of young women in the 2012 election. As part of this national campaign, the AAUW Action Fund is providing grants to 15 target states to help them increase the influence of women in shaping public policy. The My Vote campaign will also focus on critical issues that affect women such as jobs, college affordability, and health care, including access to birth control.

**AAUW-Sponsored Newseum Exhibit Opens:** As part of the It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard campaign, AAUW is sponsoring "Every Four Years: Presidential Campaigns and the Press," an interactive exhibit at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The exhibit

features campaign ads, artifacts used by the press and candidates on the campaign trail, and an interactive voting booth where visitors can cast "ballots" for the 2012 presidential election. The exhibit also includes historical information about the suffrage movement, particularly how candidates' wives became more influential in elections after women won the right to vote in 1920. The exhibit will be updated throughout the 2012 campaign and will run through Inauguration Day 2013.

AAUW Action Fund Releases Congressional Voting Record: The AAUW Action Fund released a scorecard of members of Congress' action on issues that will be critical to women and their families when they cast their votes in the upcoming elections. The new Congressional Voting Record, which covers the first session of the 112th Congress, outlines how U.S. senators and representatives voted and whether they co-sponsored legislation on priority issues affecting education, economic security, and civil rights. "This voting record underscores the lack of action on women's issues and will be a powerful tool outside the Beltway," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations.



Contraception Rule Prompts Legislative Backlash, Fares Well in Polls: Several legislative proposals surfaced in response to the Obama administration's ruling that requires religiously affiliated employers' insurance providers to cover contraceptives under preventive services with no co-pays. An amendment from Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) would allow any employer or insurance plan, religiously affiliated or otherwise, to deny coverage for any health service required under the new health care law based on undefined religious or moral objections. This means employers and insurance companies could deny access not only to birth control, but also to essential health care services including maternity care, HIV/ AIDS treatment, mammograms, or cancer screenings. A vote on the Blunt amendment is expected sometime later in February.

Advertise **your** business or service here: \$10/month or \$25/3 months — Submit electronically to Nancy Butler at nanbutler@aol.com

## 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 Svcamore 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://www.kensingtoncourt.net/ directions.html

AAUW and The Coalition to Protect Women's Health Care oppose any measure that attempts to restrict or limit preventive care services and contraceptive coverage.

**Take Action!** Tell Congress: Don't undermine our access to birth control!

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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Tel: 732-449-9155 Fax: 732-449-2798

## Contact Barbara to join us for one of our trips!

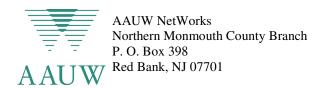
August 14-27, 2012:

South Africa Safari & Cape Town January 29-February 26, 2013:

Australia & New Zealand

April 25, 2012:

Princeton Museum, Lunch, Sculpture Garden



# Tuesday, March 20, Interbranch Program: "Vanities" with Guild Theatreworks at Northern Ocean County Branch of AAUW

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 2

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 now on Facebook. Check them out!

#### Meeting cancellation information:

Listen to 94.3 FM.