



# AAUW NetWorks

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

Volume 56, Number 7

May 2012

## The New LAF

Most of us branch members know something about AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund. Founded in 1981, LAF originally provided financial support for academics seeking legal remedies for sexual harassment, sex discrimination in hiring and promotion, and pay inequity. Men as well as women have benefitted from LAF help. For example, men coaching women's college sports teams have been fired for complaining about unequal treatment for women athletes at their schools, and AAUW has supported them in their lawsuits for reinstatement and back pay.

In recent years LAF has expanded its role to include offering financial and moral support beyond campus. Previously, it could not take on landmark cases like Lily Ledbetter's since they did not arise in academia. Now LAF is making an effort to identify strategic cases that could make groundbreaking precedent in the workplace as well as at colleges. And LAF goes beyond giving financial help to plaintiffs by providing moral support in the form of amicus briefs and written statements to the courts.

LAF now also maintains an online resource library at [aauw.org/act/laf/](http://aauw.org/act/laf/) that offers legal information on topics including sexual harassment, sexual assault, pay equity, family and medical leave, and pregnancy discrimination. A section on using the legal system provides information a prospective plaintiff needs to know before taking action and advice on finding an attorney. A nationwide referral network is available with a list of lawyers and social scientists who are experts in sex discrimination in educational settings. And finally, LAF has developed the Campus Outreach Program to give students the information they need to protect themselves from sex discrimination, harassment, and assault at college.

LAF is currently supporting nine legal cases, including that of 16 veteran and active-duty

*(continued on page 6)*

## Branch Program

### **"Clean Ocean Action"**

with Tavia Danch, Education Coordinator  
for Pollution Prevention

Monday, May 7, 7 p.m.

at Kensington Court

864 Shrewsbury Avenue, Tinton Falls

Clean Ocean Action is a leading national and regional voice working to protect waterways using science, law, research, education, and citizen action to improve the degraded water quality of marine waters off the coasts of NY and NJ.

In the 1980s, NMCB and the Interbranch Council worked on the Women's Environmental Coalition and with Clean Ocean Action to change laws regarding ocean dumping of waste materials in order to clean up local beaches and ocean waters.

Tavia Danch will speak about the organization's current projects and how interested citizens can become involved.

If you need a ride, please call Mary Lea Burden or Laura Noll.

## Board Meeting

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

## June Branch Fundraiser

**"Jewelry as Art: The Legend of C. Tiffany and the Diamond Dynasty"** with art historian Janet Zapata on Tuesday, June 5, 6 p.m. at Little Silver Women's Club. This program was postponed from December. Find reservation form and more information on page 7.

## 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
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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 May issue are due on May 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

## Presidents' Message

We would like to thank branch member and financial advisor **Wendy Murphy** for speaking so ably at the April meeting, sharing her financial acumen and explaining how she came to write an AAUW-related letter to the editor of *Vogue* magazine, which appeared in the April issue. If you missed the program, contact Wendy for details.

\$tart \$mart was a huge success, with Annie Houle of the Wage Project presenting both at Monmouth University on March 22 and at Georgian Court University the following day. These workshops taught college students negotiating skills and how to benchmark starting salaries. Annie was both informative and engaging with students and all who attended. Many branch members contributed to bring this long-anticipated event to fruition, but above all the tireless efforts of scholarship and college connection co-chairs **Barbara Williamson** and **Isabel Lopez-Kupilik** should be recognized. Furthermore, when health issues prevented Barbara from actually participating in the events, **Mary Anne Anderl** graciously took her place. Our branch is very grateful to all of you. In addition, Isabel, Mary Anne, and public policy VP **Rekha Datta** completed the facilitators' training given at Monmouth to qualify for presenting at future \$tart \$mart workshops.

We thank Northern Ocean County Branch for hosting the Interbranch meeting on March 20 and presenting an entertaining and thought-provoking drama about relationships among women friends. We are delighted that collaboration with our Interbranch partners has gone beyond taking turns hosting the one meeting per year. Freehold Area Branch co-sponsored \$tart \$mart with us, providing funds to bring speaker Annie Houle to the two colleges. Members of both Freehold Area and Northern Ocean County Branches attended the \$tart \$mart workshop at Georgian Court. A new connection involves Freehold Branch members observing at our Running & Winning workshop this year, as they consider holding their own workshop in the future.

Running & Winning takes place on April 27 at Monmouth Regional High School, after the deadline for this issue. The many branch members who participated in a variety of roles, greatly contributing to its success, will be thanked by name in the June *NetWorks*.

We hope you'll plan to attend our May Branch meeting on May 7 at Kensington Court, where our speaker will be Tavia Danch from Clean Ocean Action.

Our fundraising program, "Jewelry as Art: The Legend of C. Tiffany and the Diamond Dynasty" with Janet Zapata, has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, at 6 p.m. at the Little Silver Women's Club. Make your reservations with the coupon on page 7.

Just a reminder: please support our Book Sale at

### Equal Pay Campaign

AAUW released its new report *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap* just in time for Equal Pay Day 2012.

The report was front page news in the *Asbury Park Press* of April 18.

You can read the full report online at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and learn how you can support this campaign.

Old First Church on King's Highway in Middletown, either by volunteering to work a shift (contact Anne Morrison), or by purchasing some of our reasonably priced, gently used books. It's open each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. except holiday weekends. There is something for everyone there!

Joan Spring, for  
Barbara Iwanski and Joan Spring  
Co-Presidents

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## 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 May 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: Wednesday, May 2, at 1 p.m.  
Topic: *My Wonderful Day* at Two River Theater  
Meets: Friday, May 11, 1 p.m. at Marjorie Levy'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.

### 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 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Topic: *Physics of the Future: How Science Will Shape Human Destiny and Our Daily Lives by the Year 2100* by Michio Kaku  
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

## Book Corner

The March meeting of Insights was a discussion of *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson.

As in his previous non-fiction works, *Devil in the White City* and *Isaac's Storm*, Larson has the ability to have history read as fiction. This book was a riveting yet disturbing look at an American family caught up in the evolving Third Reich in Berlin in 1933. It is the story of William Dodd and his family after he is named Ambassador to Germany by President Roosevelt. The book demonstrates how the subtle changes "like a light mist" were able to deceive many until it was too late to intervene.

Karen VanNatten  
Insights Member



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: Thursday, May 17, at 1 p.m.  
Topic: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, Simonson  
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, April 26, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Thursday, May 24, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
at Caroline O'Neil's in West Long Branch  
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 be-

gins with some journal writing. If interested, try it out—come to listen and respond and enjoy. Contact Caroline.

## Membership

### New Member:

We welcome new member **Arlene Newman** to our branch. Please add her contact information to your yearbook:

### Arlene Newman

New College at Hofstra University  
Professional: Medical Writer

Interests: Equestrian, sports, French, writing, politics

### Membership for 2012 - 2013

Membership runs from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013. Current members: It is 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 over 125 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 2012-2013 Yearbook. Please consider including a donation to help defray branch expenses.

If you pay your dues by June 5, your name will be entered in a drawing at the June branch meeting for a free membership (payment will be refunded). You need not be present to win, but it would be nice to see you at our final meeting of the year at the Little Silver Women's Club on June 5. Please note that this meeting is on a Tuesday night.

**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

**Barbara Williamson** tripped and fell, injuring her femur. She has had surgery, is undergoing

physical therapy, and is “doing great!” She extends “a huge thank you” to **Isabel Lopez** and **Mary Anne Anderson** for stepping in for her to host Annie Houle, the Wage Project facilitator, when Barbara couldn’t attend the \$tart \$mart programs. She also thanks **Joan Spring** and **Barbara Iwanski** for helping to make the salary negotiation workshops successful.

**Barbara also wants to make sure that everyone knows to get their bone density checked!**

## NetWorking

**Lee Jantz** and former branch president **Linda Beltran** are on the committee for the Cancer Support Community’s 1st Annual National Cancer Survivor Day Walk on Sunday, June 3, at Thompson Park in Lincroft. Registration is at 8 a.m.; the three-mile walk starts at 9. A one-mile loop also will be available.

**Linda would like to form a team of nine branch members, and she volunteers to be the team captain.** You can register online: at [www.cscjerseyshore.org](http://www.cscjerseyshore.org) click on the sneakers and look for Linda’s name.

CSC is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support, education, and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. Through participation in professionally led support groups, educational workshops, nutrition and exercise programs, and mind/body classes, people affected by cancer learn vital skills that enable them to regain control, reduce isolation, and restore hope—regardless of the stage of their disease. All services are provided free of charge.



## Public Policy/Legislative Updates

**New Jersey is ranked #17 in AAUW State-by-State Rankings for Equal Pay Day:** With the release of *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*, AAUW unveils new state-by-state equal pay rankings and charts wage gaps in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The gap is narrowest in the nation’s capital, where women have the best earnings ratio: 91 cents, on average, for

every dollar earned by their male counterparts. The state with the worst earnings ratio is Wyoming, where women make 64 percent of men’s earnings. In NJ, the ratio is 79 percent, just two points above the national average of 77 percent. In addition to the release of *The Simple Truth*, AAUW branches across the nation marked Equal Pay Day by holding rallies, wearing red to symbolize how women’s wages are in the red, handing out Pay Day candy bars, and hosting bake sales with discounts for women.

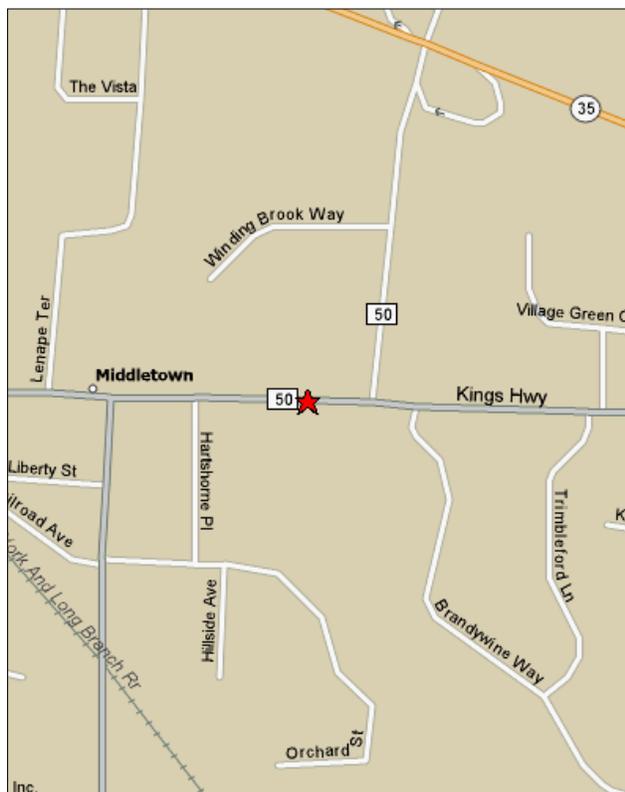
**Supreme Court Hears Arguments on Affordable Care Act:** The Supreme Court has heard three days of arguments on the constitutionality of President Barack Obama’s health care law. As expected, each of the three days of arguments brought large numbers of people rallying in support for and in opposition to the law. The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision in June, well before the election in November.

AAUW believes that, although not perfect by any stretch, many of the reforms included in the Affordable Care Act will improve the collective health of the American people. It is our hope that the elimination of pre-existing conditions and gender rating in the individual and small groups markets will result in better outcomes for more women. Unfortunately, many women will find that they have less coverage for full reproductive services due to far-reaching limitations in the new law. AAUW will continue to work to restore full access to all health care for women.

**Strong Growth Forecast for STEM Fields; Resource Aims to Recruit Women:** Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields are expected to have a job growth rate of 17% between 2008 and 2018, a new report shows. This growth rate is nearly double that of all other fields. But women are still under-represented in all but one STEM field, and women hold only one in four STEM jobs. Also, the number of women earning community college degrees in STEM disciplines has declined significantly over the last decade.

AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and math education, especially for girls and other under-represented populations. AAUW’s report *Why so Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics* (2010) documented troubling shortages of women and girls preparing to work in STEM fields. To close this gap, AAUW supports efforts that train teachers to encourage girls and other underrepresented groups to pursue careers in these fields.

**AAUW Analysis: Data on Bullying, Harassment in Schools Lacks Credibility:** In an analysis of new data



## AAUW Book Sale

The store is located at Old First Church,  
69 Kings Highway, Middletown  
Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays

## Thanks to Local Businesses!

The Book Sale was in need of two-handed brown grocery store bags to give to customers who made large purchases. We especially needed them for our upcoming Bag Sale at the end of June.



We would like to recognize these local businesses that generously donated their bags to the Book Sale:

- **Dearborn Farms**
- **Delicious Orchards**
- **Sickles Market**

We truly appreciate their support! Please remember them when you do your shopping!

Ruth Hodum  
Development VP

from the U.S. Department of Education, AAUW found remarkable gaps in reporting of incidents of sexual harassment and bullying in our nation's schools. AAUW applauds the Department of Education's release of the expanded data from the 2009-2010 school year, which for the first time includes statistics on bullying and harassment, disciplinary actions, and students with disabilities, among other items.

However, according to AAUW's analysis, 14 of the 20 largest school districts in the nation reported no incidents of bullying or harassment based on gender. These numbers fly in the face of reputable research and common sense. The AAUW report *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School* (2011) found that nearly half of all surveyed students in grades 7 through 12 reported that they had been harassed in school year 2010-11. About a third of all girls and a quarter of boys said they had witnessed sexual harassment at school.

**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

## The New LAF

*continued from page 1)*

servicemen and servicewomen who, while serving in the U.S. military, have been raped, sexually assaulted, and harassed by active duty members of the military. Their lawsuit against the Department of Defense alleges that the military failed to investigate rapes and sexual assaults, prosecute perpetrators, and provide an adequate judicial system as required by the Uniform Military Justice Act, and so violated plaintiffs' constitutional rights. Plaintiffs' lawyers are writing a white paper detailing changes and reforms that the military should make regarding sexual assault; plaintiffs would be willing to drop the suit if the military makes them.

*Parker v. IN High School Athletic Association* is another case currently supported by LAF. Amber Parker, coach of the girls' basketball team at Franklin City High School, Indiana, has filed suit alleging that scheduling of girls' and boys' basketball games in Indiana violates Title IX. The suit demon-

strates that the majority of boys' basketball games are played in primetime on Friday and Saturday nights, while the girls' games are relegated to week-day nights. The scheduling unfairly places academic burdens on the girls who compete on school nights, deprives them of crowd support, and makes them feel like second-class athletes. The case is still being processed in federal court.

LAF has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars since its founding, and has helped many people seek relief from injustice. We pass the basket for donations at most branch meetings but don't always reach some of our members.

**If you haven't made a contribution to LAF yet this year, would you consider making a donation of even two or three dollars? You can give the**

**Special thanks to Kensington Court for providing a location for our meetings!**

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://www.kensingtoncourt.net/directions.html>

money to your study group chair, or send a check (made out to "AAUW") directly to our Development VP Ruth Hodum. Please indicate that the donation is for LAF.

Mary Anne Anderl  
LAF Representative

**Save the date for a special fundraiser program!**

**Jewelry as Art: The Legend of C. Tiffany, The Diamond Dynasty**

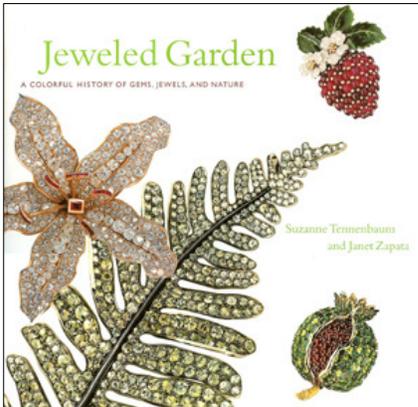
**Tuesday, June 5, 6:00 p.m.**

**Little Silver Women's Club  
Church Street & Rumson Road**

**Presentation & Slides by Janet Zapata,  
Art Historian, Author,  
and Independent Curator**

**\*\*Gala Hors D'oeuvre and Dessert Buffet\*\***

**\$15.00 per person**



Please return the form with a check payable to AAUW-NMCB by May 30. Or pay at the door. Guests are invited and are asked to make a donation. Thank you!

Name(s) Address

Name(s) Address

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount included

**Please complete & return with your check to: AAUW, PO Box 398, Red Bank, NJ 07701**



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

## Monday, May 7, Branch Program: "Clean Ocean Action" with Tavia Danch

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.

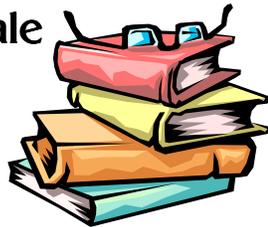
Membership is open to any graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

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."

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### 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](http://www.aauw.org)  
AAUW-NJ [www.aauwnj.org](http://www.aauwnj.org)  
AAUW-NMCB [www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org](http://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.

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