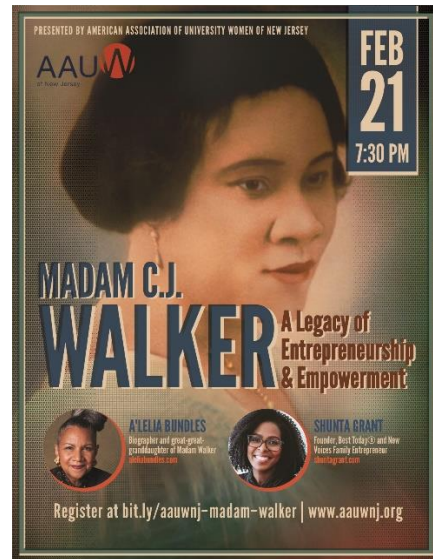


AAUW - NMCB February Branch Meeting

**Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.
Via Zoom
Registration Required**

**Madam C. J. Walker:
A Legacy of Entrepreneurship &
Empowerment.**

Virtual webinar, sponsored by AAUW NJ.
Register [here](#).



Our guest speaker, A'Lelia Bundles, authored the biography of Ms. Walker *On Her Own Ground*, and is also the great-great-granddaughter of Madam Walker, founder of the Madam Walker Family Archives, vice chair emerita of Columbia University's board of trustees, on the advisory council for the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute, and an award-winning journalist and author. And, a member of New Voices Foundation, which provides vital funding, learning, and networking support for women of color entrepreneurs; New Voices now owns Villa Lewaro, the mansion Ms. Walker built. Two outstanding speakers, inspired by a compelling figure whose relevance continues today.

The program will be recorded and available to members after February 21.

On Her Own Ground, A'Lelia. Published by Scribner, 2002. 432 pages; hardcover, paperback, ebook. Also **Netflix** series starring Octavia Spencer.

Presidents' Message

Dear Members and Friends,

In this chilly season, we like to think of the word "apricity" ~ the warmth of the sun in winter. This word conjures images of comfort and hope.

Very cold days keep us inside and working on hobbies and neglected tasks. On a day the sun peeks through perhaps you sit in your favorite spot to soak in the warmth.

Staying connected to friends also keeps us warm in the winter, especially AAUW friends. If you haven't yet, explore the study groups or start a new one, and volunteering at the Used Book Sale is a great way to connect with old friends or make new ones!

If you have a free moment while you sit in the sun, sign up for AAUW National's Two Minute

Activist - www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/. It's a quick way to make an impact by sending an email or text to your legislators.

Our branch is the warm sun for some in our community with special programs and scholarships for local girls and women. As the warmer spring weather arrives, so will our annual scholarship luncheon. Watch your email for details; we hope you will attend and bring some friends with you to introduce them to AAUW and help raise the funds that support our scholarships.

Branch meetings, both virtual and in-person, are also open to the public and we welcome you to bring a friend or two.

In this season of darkness, we are reminded of a quote by Mary Ann Radmacher, "As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way." We hope that you will stay warm and comfortable for the remainder of the winter and that you will be part of creating light for others.

Marian & Heather

Marian Wattenbarger

Heather Balczarek

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

March 5 at 6:30 PM, Interbranch meeting on Human Trafficking at Brick Library
April 17 Scholarship Luncheon at Beacon Hill Country Club
May 7 Running & Winning Workshop at Monmouth Regional High School
Every Thursday and Saturday (excluding holiday weekends) until the end of June check out the Used Book Sale at Old First Church, Middletown

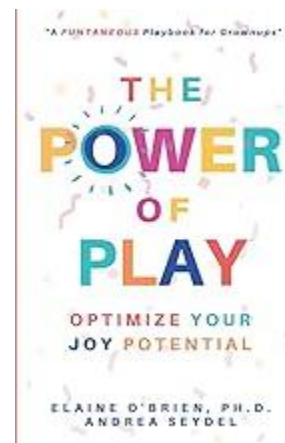
Come, learn, enjoy, bring a friend, and make a difference. For more information about any of these contact either Co-president, Heather Balczarek or Marian Wattenbarger

NMCB SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Kathy Olsen, 2024 Luncheon Chair, Announces:

Our **8th Annual Scholarship Luncheon** will be held at Beacon Hill Country Club, Atlantic Highlands, on Wednesday, April 17, at noon.

Elaine O'Brien, Ph.D., author of *The Power of Play: Optimize Your Joy Potential*, will be the guest speaker. Her book will be available for purchase that day.



Once we have finalized our Women of Achievement honorees, we will send out the reservation flyers.

Remind your friends to save the date.

We look forward to a successful afternoon in this gorgeous setting.

Upcoming 2024 Branch Meetings Save the Dates

March 2024 Interbranch hosted by Northern Ocean Branch

**Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Tuesday, March 5, at 630 pm
Brick Public Library**

301 Chambers Bridge Rd.
Doors open at 6:00 for seating and setup.

AAUW of NOCB will be hosting speaker Stacy Kallman, from the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Human Trafficking can affect anyone, regardless of gender, race, age, finances, citizenship, or language.

Through education and awareness, each of us may become alert to the signs and may play an important role in ending it.

Please join us as Stacy provides us with essential information to help us become aware and appropriately take action to end/prevent the exploitation of others.

April 2024 Scholarship Luncheon, April 17, Beacon Hill Country Club

Women's conference at
Brookdale, April 19

May 2024 Annual Business meeting and program, May 6

June 2024 End of season social event

If you have an idea for a program or would like to help with program planning, please contact me.

Barbara Withers
Program Coordinator

Come Join the Book Awards Crew!

Each spring for the past several years, our branch has presented a Book Award to an accomplished young woman graduating from a public high school in our Northern Monmouth region. The criterion is having the highest average score in mathematics in her graduation class. The award is welcomed by each of the 22 participating schools; it includes a frameable certificate and a \$25 gift card.

As Education Outreach Director, **Connie Goddard** has overseen the process, first gathering names of the young women to be honored. Then, the books are packed up and delivered with assistance from other branch members. Last year, these included **Marian Wattenbarger, Ruth Hodum, and Marie Gambuzza.**

The process of selecting the book each year often involves members of the Insights group – books are always nonfiction, and we choose titles that are both edifying and entertaining. This year, **Judy Kramer** is helping with the selection process.

Among the joys of doing this is learning something about the great variety of high schools in our area and the growing diversity of their students. Most schools welcome us to their honors ceremony as well.

This year, though, we will need some additional helpers – in part because Connie will be away in late May promoting a book of her own (see information in the Networking column). So do think of a contribution you might want to make – apply your computer skills to help gather the names of students or a creative flair to assist with the packaging. And delivery offers a means to discover new parts of the county. Contact any member of the past crew – or Connie herself.

And thanks very much!

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Report

Ride the Freedom Train with Harriet Tubman at Monmouth County Library Eastern Branch, Thursday, February 15, 1:30 p.m. Presented live by **Lorraine Stone**, branch member.
Submitted by Marie Gambuzza,
DEI Coordinator



Book Sale Book Sale Book Sale

AAUW Northern Monmouth County Branch
Book Sale

Old First Church
69 Kings Highway, Middletown
Lower Level, outside stairs
732-275-2237
September to June

Open: Saturdays: 10am - 2pm, Thursdays:
10am - 12noon

Donate: Saturdays: 10am - 1:30pm,
Thursdays: 10am - 11:30am Thursdays,

Closed Holiday Weekends

Wide selection of items for sale:
New releases, hardcovers, paperbacks,
children's books, fiction, non-fiction, histories,
biographies, CDs, DVDs

Accepted: Books in good condition - children's
books through young adult, fiction, history,
biographies, mysteries, sci-fi, and fantasy.
Also accepted: CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, and
videos.

Not accepted: VHS tapes, cassette tapes,
textbooks, encyclopedias, Readers Digest
Condensed books, financial, business,
cookbooks, gardening books, self-help books,
or computer how-to manuals. No books that
have been written in or highlighted or any items
in poor physical condition including moldy,
water damaged, with broken spines, chewed,
etc.

Volunteers Needed!

We need help at the book sale on Saturday
mornings - just a few hours of your time!
Staffed by volunteers, and all proceeds go
toward scholarships for local women at
Brookdale Community College and Monmouth
University, as well as book awards for the

senior girl with the highest math score in 22
public high schools in northern Monmouth
County.

The Northern Monmouth County Branch of
AAUW has been making a difference in the
community for more than 90 years and
welcomes new members to join them in
advancing equity for women and girls.
Membership in AAUW is open to any graduate
holding an associate or equivalent,
baccalaureate, or higher degree from a
regionally accredited college or university.

To learn more about the AAUW and the book
donation policy, visit aauw-nj-nmcb.org or call
732-275-2237.



Marian Wattenbarger, Irene Gibson and Kathy Olsen
working at the last 2023 book sale.

Photo: Marion Giles



Membership Matters

Membership Report

Membership is Everyone's Responsibility

The yearbook was mailed in early December.
Please let us know if you did not receive your
copy or if you have corrections.

Please add new member information and any changes to the blank pages in your yearbook.

New Members:

Margaret (Peggy) James
Massey Junior College, GA
Real estate broker associate
Travel, reading, history

Mariann Mann
Rutgers
mariann98@aol.com

Retired CFO

Contact the Chairs:
Joan Fruchter

Barbara Iwanski

Barbara Withers

Change of address/phone from yearbook:
Maureen Paoni

Lauren Nicosia

Membership Co-directors:
Mary Lea Burden

Judy Kramer

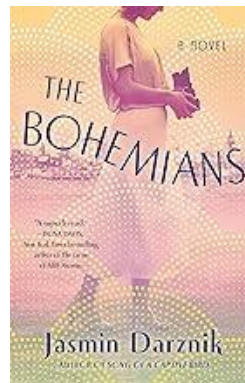
Study, Action, Interest Groups

Study Group News

Art History

Our February meeting will be a book discussion of *The Bohemians: A Novel*, by Jasmin Darznik. **Susan Gelber** has once again volunteered her home for our February meeting.

Anyone interested in joining our study group should contact one of the chairs. We will let you know what's in the works for 2024. We always welcome new members.



French Conversation

Our group enables women with a good knowledge of French to maintain their fluency through language structure reviews and conversations with other members on different topics.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact the chair for further information.

Chair: Jeannine Maloney

Insights into Our Times

Our nonfiction book group will meet via Zoom at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 13, to discuss *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin.

Upcoming:

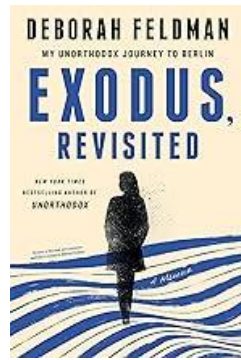
Our March 12 book is *Exodus Revisited: My Unorthodox Journey to Berlin* by Deborah Feldman.

Our April 9 title is to be determined.

Our meeting date is always the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Contact chair, Kathy Olsen for more information.

New members are welcome.



Russian Short Stories

The Russian Literature Group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., via Zoom. This year we will be reading the short stories of Leo Tolstoy, one of the greatest writers of all time. Please contact me if you are interested.

Contact Study Group Chair: Stephanie Rose

PUBLIC POLICY



IMPORTANT ISSUES right now:

- Paycheck Fairness Act was reintroduced in Congress last March to update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which became law just 15 years ago.
- Healthy Families Act would allow workers to earn paid sick days.

- Women's Health Protection Act would protect abortion care as a statutory right and prohibit restrictions, including arbitrary deadlines; biased counseling; and mandatory ultrasounds.
- Equal Rights Amendment: AAUW is a founding partner of the ERA Coalition's National Strategy Task Force.

You will be asked to TAKE ACTION via 2-Minute Activist (if you have signed up for that) or via AAUW national website.

YOU ARE INVITED to attend this webinar during the next week:

School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars

Feb. 7, 2024, at 7 PM ET

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y2RuiP5PSNuey04jKNymAA

Across the country, we have seen school boards, and candidates for school boards, taking up controversial policies that have led to banning books from school libraries; the censorship of curriculum in school classrooms due to individuals finding content "objectionable;" and policies leading to the prevention of safe school climates for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. This AAUW National Public Policy Committee webinar about how one AAUW state board is fighting back and what you can do locally.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Here is a recording of the January 11 program hosted by our friend Mary Gatta (who now is PP co-director of Florida AAUW) featuring Dr. Marvin Dunn, Miami Center for Racial Justice and Professor Emeritus at Florida International University <https://vimeo.com/904818253?share=copy>

Nancy Butler, Public Policy Director

Writers Corner

There are writers among our members, and we would love for you to share some of your work in upcoming issues of NetWorks. Please submit your work to Karen Topham.

~~~~~ NETWORKING

Book by a Member Set to be Published This Summer

Connie Goddard is pleased to announce that a book she has written will be published in late August by the University of Illinois Press. Titled *Learning for Work: How Industrial Education Fostered Democratic Opportunity*, it offers brief histories of three distinctive schools – one in New Jersey, another in Chicago, and a third in North Dakota – and sets them in a historical and intellectual context.

Called a “vibrant history of industrial education in the Progressive Era” by a leading labor historian, the book is described by the publisher as an “absorbing merger of history and storytelling” that “looks at the people who shaped industrial education while offering a provocative vision of realizing its potential today.”

In the book, Connie has moved beyond standard histories of industrial education, books that tend to dismiss it as a means of maintaining a laboring class. She regards such training – now known as career and technical education – as providing a viable means of exploring career options for young people then and now. Among her motivations for writing the book was a year she taught at a state prison in New Jersey. Her concern then was why the men in her classes had not learned to make a living without getting themselves in trouble with the law.

Connie’s analysis includes insights into the complexities of arguments pro and con by such noted figures as John Dewey, Jane Addams,

and W.E.B. Du Bois. One of her favorite summations on the subject appears below; it was written by a woman in the North Dakota school’s first graduating class.



1901

Looking back over twenty-five years of growth, the Class of 1901 feels that the N. I. is a school which has fostered the idea that work of any kind is honorable—that there is dignity in labor be in that of the mechanic, the artisan, the farmer, and the housewife or the teacher.

This outstanding feature has tended to break down class distinction, and instilled among the students a democratic spirit which fulfills one of the principal objects for which schools are created.

[Ina E. Graham, Ellendale, N. Dak.]



Connie’s mother received a two-year commercial degree from the school – known as the NI for Normal and Industrial – in 1937 and always spoke highly of it, which was another motivation for writing the book.

From our friends at Monmouth Arts, our cherished late member, Vickie Snoy, is being honored with a scholarship in her name:

2024 Emerging Artist Scholarships

Each year, Monmouth Arts presents young art students from a variety of disciplines with college scholarships through our Emerging Artist Scholarship program. This year the program awards \$1000 scholarships to three deserving Monmouth County high school seniors who are committed to pursuing the arts in higher education.

- **MC2 Scholarship for Performing Arts:** *Students in Dance, Music, Voice, Instrumental, Composition, Theater, & Drama*
- **Emerging Artist Scholarship for Literary Arts:** *Students in Creative Writing, Poetry, & Journalism*
- **Victoria J. Snoy Memorial Scholarship for the Arts:** *Students in Fashion, Film, Photography, & Visual Arts*

Deadline: April 1st by 5:00pm

Find guidelines and applications [HERE](#)

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Barbara Withers was elected to the Board of the Guild of Creative Art for 2024-25.

Barbara also had a photograph chosen for the Guild's "Edgy Show."



NetWorks is published by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Please submit copy to Karen Topham, Editor.

Due dates for *NetWorks* copy for Volume 68 are as follows:
Monday 25 March for April 2024
Tuesday 23 April for May 2024
Tuesday 28 May for June 2024

Send address changes, names of prospective members, membership applications and checks, and questions about non-receipt of the newsletter to:
Judy Kramer and Mary Lea Burden, Membership, Co-directors
P.O. Box 398, Red Bank, NJ 07701 aauw.nmcb@gmail.com

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 the use of the branch email 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*.

Something to share? Please send the information to Karen Topham for the next *NetWorks*.



American Association of University Women
Northern Monmouth County Branch
P.O. Box 398
Red Bank, NJ 07701

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. 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 degree or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. AAUW-NMCB is designated as a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations to the branch, as well as to the national organization, are fully tax-deductible. AAUW is a highly rated charity.

AAUW Used Book Sale



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

Open: Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
through June.

Thursdays from 10 a.m. to Noon

Donations: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.;
Thursdays 10 a.m. to Noon

Have you been missing
AAUW's *Outlook* magazine that used to
arrive in the mail?

Go to www.aauw.org. At the bottom of
the home page, sign up for the
newsletter with your email address and
zip code.

Stay Connected!

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AAUW-NMCB www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org

AAUW Action Network www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/



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Branch phone 732-275-2237

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.NMCB/>