

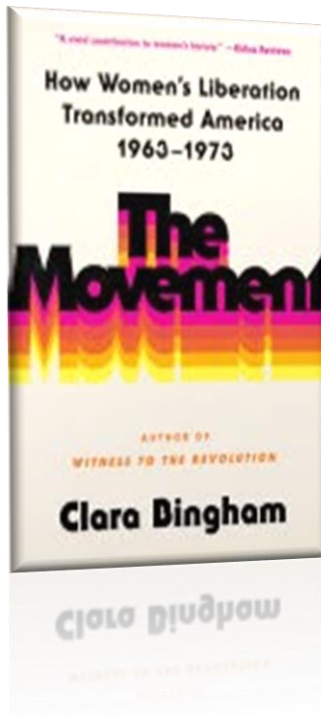
## Branch Meetings 2025

### Monday, February 3

#### Lunch and Learn 12:30 p.m.

The Atrium at Navesink Harbor

“The Movement: How Women’s Liberation Transformed America 1963-1973,” a 60-minute *video presented by the New York Public Library.*



Award-winning journalist Clara Bingham’s new book, *The Movement*, is the first oral history of the decade that built the modern feminist movement. The book captures the years 1963–1973 in the voices of the women at the forefront, from Bella Abzug to Shirley Chisholm, Gloria Steinem, the Janes, and much more. It gives center stage to the unsung heroes of the fight for gender equality

and highlights the vital role played by activists of color.

Bingham discusses with journalist Farai Chideya the intimate inside story of what it felt like to be at the forefront of the modern feminist crusade when women rejected thousands of years of custom and demanded the freedom to be who they wanted and needed to be.

### Saturday, February 15

#### 7:00 p.m. via Zoom provided by AAUW-NJ

#### “Human Trafficking”

(AAUW-NJ is a partner with the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking)

Watch your email for the registration flyer.

### March 2025

Our Branch will be hosting the **Interbranch Meeting**, which will be held on **Wednesday, March 12, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**, in collaboration with W.I.L.L. (Women in Learning and Leadership) at Brookdale Community College.

Excerpts will be shown from the film “The Women’s Revolution: How We Changed Your Life,” followed by a multi-generational panel addressing current concerns related to gender equity and women’s rights. Flyer with date and details coming soon.

Barbara Withers, Program Director

## Presidents' Message

Dear Friends,

In the 1990s, I taught a stress management course at the hospital where I was employed. While most of the focus was on learning relaxation skills and developing health-promoting habits, each class included an introduction to the session with information supported by research and data. I found classes most responsive when I began with a quote from an historic figure or a well-known author or performer that related to daily life or how we give ourselves permission to change. Recently as I was cleaning out my home "office" I found some of those quotes and decided to share a few as we enter this new year in a challenging time around the globe.

"To bring about change you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try." Rosa Parks

"Vitality shows not only in the ability to persist but in the ability to start over." F. Scott Fitzgerald

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." C.S. Lewis

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." Maya Angelou

Heather and I hope that as you move through this year, you find this branch of AAUW, a place where you are encouraged and sustained as change occurs around us. If you haven't been actively involved consider working at the book sale, helping with the luncheon, and visiting one of the study groups, all places to meet and enjoy other members.

This letter also comes with a big thank you to **Barbara Withers** for the special December program about little-known NJ artists and lots of good food; to **Mary Lea Burden** and **Judy Kramer** for the recent new member gathering that included a lot of information about this branch and more good food; to **Kathy Olsen**, **Ruth Hodum**, and **Irene Gibson** for keeping the book sale running smoothly (if you've not been there, we hope you will visit it soon - there are lots of good books waiting for you); and to **Nancy Butler** for keeping us informed about public policy actions we can take.

If you are looking for someplace to share your

talents and ideas, we have lots of activities ahead of us this spring. These include the Scholarship Luncheon, selecting students for TechTrek, and partnering with other groups to offer Running & Winning, the collaborative workshop day for high school junior girls that allows them to meet women who hold public office and encourages their involvement in public life.



Mary Lea and Judy introducing the Meet & Mingle Program

Photo: Karen Topham

If any of these interest you, please contact either of us and we can put you in touch with the person directing these efforts. We look forward to hearing from you as together we further AAUW's mission.

Marian Wattenbarger  
Heather Balczarek

### Last Call: TechTrek Scholarship Committee

Any member wishing to help interview Monmouth County rising 8th-grade girls, contact Annette Benanti.

Volunteers need only offer a few hours during the month of March to join me in local interviews at a convenient time. It's a great project! To see more go to [www.techtrek-nj.aauw.net](http://www.techtrek-nj.aauw.net).

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility*

The yearbook is at the printers and will be ready very soon!! Thanks to all the many helpers who have been working on the contents. Be sure to use the extra pages to add new members when they appear in *Networks*.

We had a very successful Meet and Mingle on Sunday, January 12, at the Shrewsbury Historical Society. Thanks to all the board members who attended and spoke about their special projects. Their presentations inspired many of our guests. We were especially pleased that Prof. **Roseanne Alvarez** attended, as well as many of her WILL students from Brookdale Community College.



BCC WILL Students participate at Meet & Mingle  
Photo: Karen Topham

We are pleased to welcome 2 new members.

#### **New Members:**

##### **Linda Ensor**

Furman U.; U. of S. Carolina English teacher, retired  
Reading, cycling, rowing

##### **Linda Hewitt**

Monmouth U

#### **New phone number:**

**Elizabeth Perry**

#### **In Memoriam:**

**Anne Morrison** – We recently received word that Anne had passed away on May 8, 2024, at the age of 98. She was a long-time member of our branch and was active in the French Conversation Study Group as well as playing in several AAUW bridge groups.

After raising her sons, Anne obtained her bachelor's degree from Kean University and her master's from Seton Hall University, both in education. She went on to earn her LDTC certificate, and it gave her great satisfaction to implement improved teaching methods that benefited many students with learning disabilities. She worked in the Neptune, Middletown, and Keyport, NJ public school systems until her retirement at age 68.

Anne relocated to an independent living facility in Cary, NC in her 90's. Even in that last decade of her life she became active in her new community-making many friends, going to concerts, and attending weekly church services. An avid and excellent bridge player all her life, she established a bridge club at Woodland Terrace, arranging games and teaching classes for fellow residents to improve their skills. She volunteered for and supported whatever charitable endeavors she could, such as boxing items for military troops serving abroad. She cared very deeply about her family and treasured her visits and communication with them. Anne will be remembered for her love of family, friends, and church; her wisdom; her caring, (including a long lineage of well-fed pets); and her amazing sense of humor.

#### **Co-Membership Directors:**

Mary Lea Burden

Judy Kramer

## PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES

### Title IX

AAUW Press Release 1/9/25:

AAUW... today denounced the decision by the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Kentucky to vacate the updated Title IX rules released in April 2024. The decision makes it easier for schools to dismiss cases, harder to hold perpetrators of sexual harassment and assault accountable, and more difficult for survivors to get the protections they need.

“This ruling is a direct attack on students nationwide,” said AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell. “The U.S. District Court has just made it harder for America’s most vulnerable students to report their harassment and seek protection.”

The 2024 Title IX rules increased protection for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault and ensured equal education opportunities for pregnant, parenting, and LGBTQ+ students. The court’s decision reverts Title IX back to rules instituted by former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos which fail to respond to the reality of sexual harassment and violence in schools.

### 2025 Member Vote

From [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org):

It’s your AAUW and your voice counts. It’s time to comment on the proposed changes to the AAUW national bylaws and Public Policy Priorities.

This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and national bylaws, in addition to electing members to the national Board of Directors. Every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the

bylaws or Public Policy Priorities before they are put to the membership for a vote.

Here you’ll find all the information you need to comment on the proposed bylaws and Public Policy Priorities changes. Comments can be submitted until Wednesday, January 29, at 5:00 p.m. ET.

[Review and comment on the proposed bylaws amendments](#)

[Review and comment on the proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities](#)

### ICYMI: “Securing the Future”

If you missed the November 19 discussion “Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women’s Economic Security,” it was recorded and is available for you to watch at this link:

<https://youtu.be/ku1D3t6g1Lg>.

Nancy Butler, NMCB Public Policy Director

~

### Study Group News

Dear Friends,

A member has indicated that she would like to start a **Spanish Conversation Study Group**. This is a study group that had previously been very active for several years. If any member has an interest in being part of this new group, please contact me.

Thank you!

Susan Gelber, Study Group Director

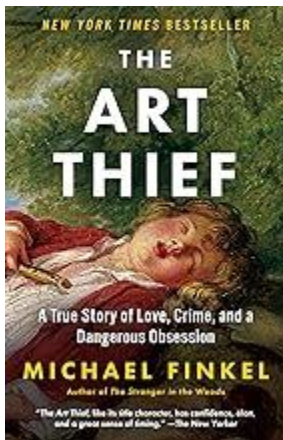
Interested in joining an established Study Group? Check with the Chairs in the groups listed below. Those attending are required to be members in good standing. Guests may attend three meetings before being required to join AAUW. Here are your possibilities.

## Art History

Our upcoming plans include meeting on **Friday, January 24 - 1:00 p.m.**, at The Atrium at Navesink Harbor. We will be viewing ***Stolen***, an 85-minute documentary DVD by Rebecca Dreyfus.

A film critic wrote: "A haunting and expansive documentary about the search for the precious paintings stolen in 1990 from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum."

On **Friday, February 21 - 1:30 p.m.**, we will meet at Susan Gelber's Home (Address to those who RSVP) for our book discussion of ***The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession***, by Michael Finke. This 224-page, non-fiction is a spellbinding portrait of obsession and flawed genius. The author brings us into the thief's strange world—unlike most thieves, he never stole for money, keeping all his treasures in a single room where he could admire them.



If you have any questions contact the co-chairs:  
Joan Fructer

Barbara Withers

## French Conversation

Our group enables women with a good knowledge of the French language to maintain their fluency through some language structure reviews and conversations with other members on different topics. Upon the recommendation of our members, we have

now added a literary component to some of our meetings.

To keep up with the needs of our members, we will be meeting once a month (the second Thursday at 7:30 p.m.) through Zoom.

Members are encouraged to participate (orally or written) at the monthly meetings.

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

Chair: Jeannine Maloney

## Insights Into Our Times

Insights, our non-fiction book group meets for discussion on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June.

Our upcoming book choices and meetings are as follows:

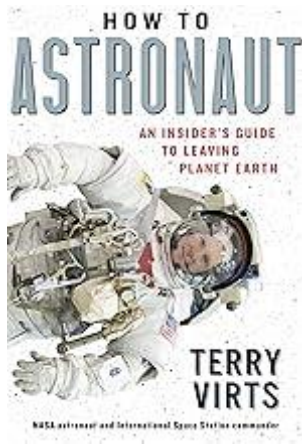
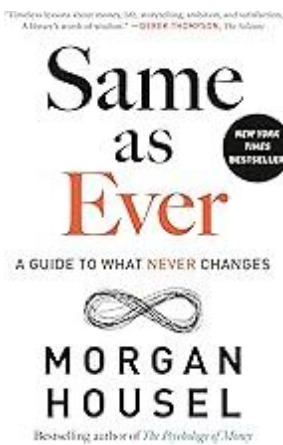
February 11: *Same as Ever: A Guide to What Never Changes* by Morganousel; meeting at 2 p.m., at the home of Marian Wattenbarger

March 11: *How to Astronaut: An Insider's Guide to Leaving Planet Earth* by Terry Virts. We will gather at 2 p.m., at Bell Works, Holmdel, near the Holmdel Library. We plan to find a seating area to accommodate our group.

April 8: *New Yorkers: A City and Its People in Our Time* by Craig Taylor; location to be determined.

May 13: *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s* by Doris Kearns Goodwin; location to be determined.

New members are always welcome.  
Chair: Kathy Olsen



**Book Sale Book Sale Book Sale  
Half Price Sale is Coming!**

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

Open: Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Thursdays: 10 a.m. - Noon  
(except for holiday weekends)

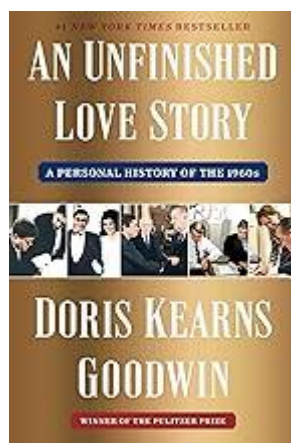
Donate: Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Thursdays: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Thursdays

Our Used Book Sale continues to do well but could really use more customers and help with publicity. Please spread the word about all the great books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, puzzles, and games we have at very low prices. Our **half-price sale is Saturday, January 25**, where everything (except new releases) will be half of already low prices.

We greatly appreciate the help we get from Brookdale students who are fulfilling community service hours in one of Roseanne Alvarez's classes.

If you haven't worked at the Book Sale yet, and would like to join in the fun, contact **Kathy Olsen, Ruth Hodum or Irene Gibson**. We welcome new volunteers. Please help spread the word!

To learn more about the AAUW and the book donation policy, visit [aauw-nj-nmcb.org](http://aauw-nj-nmcb.org) or call 732-275-2237.



**Russian Short Stories**

We have scheduled future Zoom meetings for the third Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m.

Contact Study Group Chair:  
Stephanie Rose

**Currently, we have three study groups on hiatus: German Conversation, Literature, and Writing. If you have an interest in reactivating any of these or something new, please contact Susan Gelber.**

## A Look Back: NMCB December Branch Meeting

by Judy Kramer

The December meeting featuring Women Artists in New Jersey was eye-opening for me. I know we have a lot of talent in our state and what a pleasure to have **Barbara Withers** curate a video presentation so we could see and hear from the women themselves, and actually see and hear their work. The talent we saw varied quite a bit: an Anatolian Lacemaker; a musical storyteller; a basket weaver; an Irish Harpist; and a couple that celebrates outside with festive events --truly 'art in motion.' And we finally heard from one of the masterminds behind this 'collection' --a state level "arts organizer," feminist and printmaker!

As we sampled the "favorite foods" of some of our branch members we were enriched by seeing beauty, creativity and fun on the "big" screen!

Thank you so much Barbara Withers!

Here is the recipe for my offering: the Kramers' Favorite Noodle Pudding. There were many delicious baked goods on that table and I am sure there are other recipes folks would like to have!

### Traditional Jewish Noodle Pudding

This is to be baked at 400 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes.

I put it into a 9 X 13 buttered glass baking dish.

- 1 pkg. wide egg noodles
- 4 TBS melted butter
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 16 oz. container cottage cheese
- 3/4 of a 16 oz. container sour cream
- 1 peeled and grated apple
- 1 C chopped (not too tiny) canned peaches
- 1 C. sugar (I actually use only 1/2 cup...)
- 1/2 C. orange juice
- 2-3 drops of Vanilla extract

Boil the noodles, drain, then mix in a pat

or 2 of butter.

Mix all of the other ingredients together in a large bowl.

Put the cooked noodles in the baking dish -- pour in the liquid.

The mixture in the dish should be quite moist -- feel free to add a bit of milk or Half and Half if needed.

Enjoy warm or at room temp. Can freeze the leftovers (if there are any :)



Judy's Noodle Pudding  
Photo: Karen Topham

Another great offering came from **Mary Lea Burden**. Below, we see a photo of her grandmother, Eva Campbell Heydon, on her wedding day, July 11, 1900, and a plate of Heydon's cookies called *Rockies*, a favorite of Mary Lea's family—and now a favorite of ours.



Photo: Karen Topham



Scholarship Luncheon

Save the Date

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVATIONS

Black History Month – A Short History  
by Heather Balczarek

Black History Month is recognized and celebrated every February. Some of you may wonder why this month was chosen. Carter G. Woodson, visionary and activist, is credited as the father of Black History in America and is the reason we recognize February as Black History Month.

Born in 1875 in Virginia to illiterate slave parents, Dr. Woodson was self-taught by the age of 17 and completed high school at age 20 in two years. After earning a bachelor's degree from Berea College in Kentucky, a second bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Chicago, he was the second Black American, after W.E.B. DuBois, to earn a PhD from Harvard. He also traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia and was a school supervisor in the Philippines.

Dr. Woodson realized that Black history was not being studied or taught by current historical scholars. Although he was a dues-paying member of the American Historical Association he was not allowed to attend the conferences. So, in 1915 he created an organization for scholars to study and preserve Black history, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

In 1926, Carter Woodson and the Association held and observed the first Negro History Week in the second week of February. He picked this week in the month of February as it was situated between Frederick Douglas's birthday and Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Negro History Week was expanded to Black History Month in 1970 at Kent State University, and in 1976

February was formally designated as a national month-long observance by Gerald Ford.

Each year Black History Month has a different theme. Dr. Woodson realized that a theme was necessary to keep the public's interest in the week. This year the theme is "African Americans and Labor."

To learn more about this amazing American, Black History Month, and the theme picked for this year, visit the website for The Association for the Study of African American Life and History ([www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org)).

Dr. Woodson moved to Washington DC in 1918, where he taught at the M Street school and was also Dean of Liberal Arts and head of Graduate Faculty at Howard University. His house is a National Historic Site. The site is currently closed for renovations but should be completed this year. [www.nps.gov/cawo](http://www.nps.gov/cawo)

*"Real education means to inspire people to live more abundantly, to learn to begin with life as they find it and make it better." — Carter G. Woodson, The Mis-Education of the Negro*

## FEATURING OUR MEMBERS

Both the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center in Red Bank and the Shrewsbury branch of the Monmouth County Library are organizing events for Black History Month in February. Among those planned are two that involve NMCB members.

On Sunday, February 9, from 3 to 5 in the afternoon, the Fortune Center, which is led by member **Gilda Rogers**, will host a talk about New Jersey's iconic Manual Training and Industrial School, located in Bordentown. A pioneering institution that offered a program well-balanced between students' needs for both an academic and vocational education, MTIS has often been compared to Tuskegee Institution in Alabama. The Bordentown campus was also a cultural mecca for the state's Black population.

The talk will be given by member **Connie Goddard**; her new book *Learning for*



*Work: How Industrial Education Fostered Democratic Opportunity* (University of Illinois Press, 2024) offers an analysis of MTIS in the context of similar schools. She'll also discuss efforts by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice to reopen the school. The Center [<https://www.tthomasfortuneculturalcenter.org/>] is located at 94 Drs. James Parker Blvd., in Red Bank.

On Wednesday, February 26, from 1:30 to 3:30, long-time branch member **Lorraine Stone** will do a dramatic portrayal of Elizabeth Jennings, a choir director in New York City who challenged racist streetcar policies in the 1850s – a century before a similar action by Rosa Parks. The event will be held at the library's Eastern Branch, located on Broad Street in Shrewsbury. Registration is suggested; it can be done on the library's website [<https://monmouthcountylib.org/>] or by calling 732.683.8980. (See Flyer on page 10)

A performance artist, Lorraine is well-known for her dramatic portrayals of women significant to the nation's history. Branch members have seen her compelling narratives of Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Ida B. Wells. Local heroine Jennings is her newest production.



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

The due date for copy for the March 2025 *NetWorks* copy is Tuesday, February 25.

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](mailto: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*.

# Elizabeth Jennings:

## A Pioneering Civil Rights Activist



Long before Rosa Parks, this brave New York City choir director fought segregation by challenging racist streetcar policies in 1854, taking her fight to court and winning a landmark victory for African American rights.

Actress Lorraine Stone brings this extraordinary woman's untold story to life, revealing how one individual's courage can spark profound social change.

Wednesday, February 26  
from 1:30 - 2:30 pm

*Lorraine Stone, a performance artist from Asbury Park, NJ, portrays heroic African-American women through her company Wisdomkeeper. An accomplished journalist and board member of local historical foundations, she brings compelling narratives to life on stage.*



**IN PERSON AT EASTERN BRANCH - REGISTER TO GUARANTEE SEATING**

Thanks to the Friends of the Monmouth County Library for their support of this program.



**Monmouth County Library - EASTERN BRANCH**  
1001 Route 35, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702 - 732-683-8980  
MonmouthCountyLib.org - @MonCoLibrary



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Marian Wattenbarger

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Barbara Withers

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Susan Gelber

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Susan Gelber

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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 through June.

**Donations:** Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Thursdays 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

(The sale is closed on holiday weekends.)

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

Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). At the bottom of the home page, sign up for the newsletter with your email address and zip code.

## Stay Connected!

AAUW [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

AAUW-NJ <https://aauwnj.org>

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

Branch phone 732-275-2237

AAUW Action Network [www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/](http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/)



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