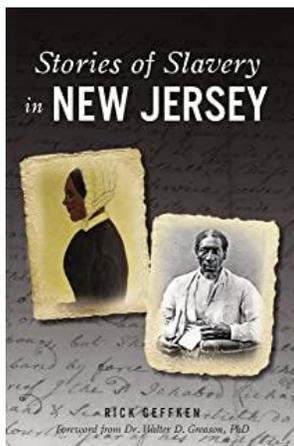


AAUW Branch Program March 31 and April 1 Slavery in New Jersey

Local writer Rick Geffken will be talking about his new book *Stories of Slavery in New Jersey* in a Zoom gathering on Wednesday evening, March 31. And on April 1, our local writer **Connie Goddard** will host a follow-up discussion about slavery and related topics in Monmouth County.

The March 31 discussion is part of the *Let's Talk about Race* series sponsored by the Red Bank Library; it runs from 7 to 8:30 pm. To join, go to <https://www.redbanklibrary.org/calendar> and fill out the reservation form. You will receive a Zoom link a few days prior (no registrations after 5 pm that day). The book is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and from the author: richg0817@yahoo.com.



The discussion on Thursday, April 1, will be at 4 pm and held on our branch Zoom account. No need to register; just sign in that day -- see below. Let Connie know if you have particular questions/comments.

Topic: AAUW NMCB's Branch Meeting - Slavery in NJ
Time: Apr 1, 2021 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)



Save the Date
Thursday, April 29, 2021

See page 5 for your invitation to our 7th Annual Scholarship Event.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and happy spring! This will be a short message, because I just got out of the hospital after emergency surgery, and this morning got my 2nd vax. So I'm not sure how the next couple of days will go. I know I am very tired. But I am very much looking forward to Earth Day on April 22. A large group of environmental organizations is hosting a full week of webinars and other events and advertising them on a joint calendar. I will be involved in this and will let you know when there is more information.

Our "Unladylike" event hosted by **Barbara Withers** was excellent and well-attended. I suppose you all know the Interbranch meeting that NOCB was planning to host was canceled. It seems the

speaker's organization downsized, and our speaker was one of the casualties.

Our next event will be the 2-meeting *Stories of Slavery in NJ*, with a look at the book of the same name authored by Rick Geffken, on Wednesday, March 31, and a discussion of it led by our member **Connie Goddard** the next day. I attended the presentation Rick made on this topic for T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center and found his discussion fascinating. I hope you will too.

The next event after that will be our virtual "author luncheon" and presentation of Women of Achievement honorees on Thursday, April 29. This is our major fundraiser, so we highly encourage EVERYONE to sign up and invite all your friends. Please see the articles about these events elsewhere in the *NetWorks* for further information.

I do hope everyone else is well, and if not, that you will be soon.

Pat Miller, President

Membership Matters

Membership is Everyone's Responsibility

Please note these changes in your membership directory.

New Member

Dora Finamore

Updates:

Sara Barnett Burrill

New Addresses:

Carol Toolan

Susan Boyce

Membership Co-directors :

Deb Blood

Mary Lea Burden

Study, Action, Interest Groups

Study Group News

There's good news to report from the Study Groups. Five groups are functioning with regular meetings on Zoom. Two groups are waiting to resume when social distancing ends.

If you'd like to have contact with interesting AAUW members, broaden your knowledge of the world, and add something special to your life, consider joining. Check with the Chairs listed below. Those attending are required to be members in good standing. Guests may attend three meetings before being required to join AAUW. Contact Membership Co-Director, Mary Lea Burden. Meetings are scheduled on Zoom. Chairs may use the recently created AAUWNMC Zoom account which does not have a 40-minute time limit. Meeting times are based on Chairs consulting the Zoom calendar. Some dates are fixed. Some are adjusted to preferences. Here are your possibilities.

Art History

Upcoming: April 22, 2 p.m., via Zoom, member **Arlene Smelson** will present a lecture titled *Art & Activism*.

Later in the spring we will be walking—yes, in person--part of the Women's Heritage Trail. We welcome new members. Contact the Chairs for more info.

Chairs:

Susan Buccellato

Barbara Iwanski

French Conversation

Contact the chair for more information.

Chair: Jeannine Maloney

Since September 2020 the French Conversation Group has been meeting twice a month (second Thursday and fourth Thursday) through ZOOM at 1:00 P.M.

The second Thursday of each month we discuss a French short story. On the fourth Thursday the participants prepare a written statement (or oral statement) on the topic of the month. The meetings last one hour to an hour and a half.

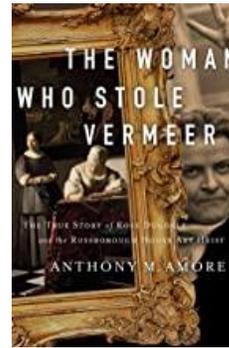
We are eager to welcome new members.

German Conversation

Sally Gordon will restart German Conversation when in-person meetings are possible.

Insights

Insights will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *The Woman Who Stole Vermeer: The True Story of Rose Duqdale and the Russborough House Art Heist* by Anthony M. Amore.



Contact chair, Kathy Olsen for further information. New members are always welcome.

Literature

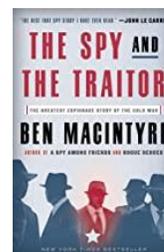
Upcoming meetings will be held on ZOOM.

Scheduled dates and book titles are:

April 15: *The Mirror and the Light* by Hilary Mantel. Muriel Thompson, leader

May 20: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. Joann McWilliams, leader

June 17: *Traitor and the Spy* by Ben MacIntyre. Frances Foden, leader



We select *literary fiction or an occasional memoir* to read during the year. A different member acts as leader each month and presents background and critical appraisal of the month's selection.

Please contact the chair for more information.

Chair: Regina Sieben

Russian Short Stories

Contact Study Group Chair: Stephanie Rose

Russia is a continental power of vast proportions, with distinctive traditions, character, national myths and forms of political organization. After a brief survey of Russian geography and culture, this study group will deal with nine short stories, and conclude by examining popular themes within Russian literature.

Presentations are in English. All materials for the study group are available through <https://www.gutenberg.org/>.

Writing

Please contact chair for meeting information.
Chair: Patricia Chapman

Members of this group are resolute in their belief in the power of the written word to inform, delight, amuse and transform the reader. With this aim, members present their writings from various genres - poetry, fiction, essays, memoir, non-fiction, opinion. The meetings begin with a timed journal exercise. When members again meet in person, after the journaling exercise they will take time out to enjoy light refreshments and conversation.

#

NetWorks is published by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. No date has been scheduled for the next issue.
Karen Topham, Editor
ktopham@gmail.com

Send address changes, names of prospective members, membership applications and checks, and questions about non-receipt of the newsletter to:
Deb Blood 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 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*.

SUPPORT OUR BOOK SALE

All proceeds go to college scholarships for local women.

Open 9 am to 1 pm, Saturdays

NOTE: Closed Saturday, April 3

**Current bestsellers fiction and nonfiction
Special at [\$4] Hardcover editions: *for example:*
The Pioneers by David McCullough, *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett**

Nearly new and gently used:
Most hardcovers \$3, most paperbacks \$2
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A few beautiful editions of classics including *Anne of Green Gables*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Little Women*.

Location:

Old First Church

69 Kings Highway, Middletown
732-275-2237 [voice message]

Donations accepted Thursdays (10 am to 11:30am);
Saturdays (9 am to 12:30 pm)

See our website for acceptable donations:

www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org.



Photo: Marion Giles

April 29 Zoom Fundraiser Will Entertain, Celebrate Women of Achievement

At noon on **Thursday, April 29**, the branch will host its **7th Annual Scholarship Event** and all you'll need to do is Zoom in. We'll hear from author Francine Garson, a Jersey girl to her core, about life as a writer. Her books *Things* and *Follow the Leader* are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of her creative output.

Since these COVID times do not permit an in-person luncheon and author's table, Francine has graciously agreed to bring her autograph pen to the branch's weekly book sale on Saturday, May 1, between 10:30AM and 12:30PM. Her books are available on Amazon and will be specially priced between April 10 and May 10. Francine will also have copies of her books on hand on May 1. The book sale is located in the basement of Old First Church, 69 Kings Highway in Middletown.

We will celebrate two Women of Achievement who lead critical Monmouth County service organizations, Anna Diaz-White and Gwendolyn Love, executive directors of 180 Turning Lives Around and Lunch Break respectively. The work of both women and their organizations over the long term and in the face of the tremendous needs emerging in the past year is nothing short of remarkable.

We will also honor the memory of our own **Barbara Williamson**, who led and cajoled our members to triumphs and milestones over the decades, including the first scholarship luncheon, featuring Author Mary Higgins Clark, eight years ago.

You may **register** for the April 29 Zoom event online or by completing the lower portion of the flyer on **Page 6** and sending it with a check to our P.O. box. All proceeds from the event will support the branch's scholarships and other special programs for women and girls. Your generosity, at whatever level you feel comfortable, is appreciated.

If you wish to become reacquainted with Francine Garson, click [here](#) to read the interview that appeared in the March 2020 NetWorks, on page 5. If that inspires a question or two you'd like to pose to our author, send your question(s) to brendastarr1@verizon.net

See you on Zoom!

Lauren Nicosia and Vickie Snoy
Scholarship Event Co-Chairs

Suffragists Speak: An Update

By Marian Wattenbarger

Suffragists Speak, a collaborative project of this branch of AAUW, the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Monmouth County, and the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center, has been performed twice in the past year. *Suffragists Speak* was written to take a closer look than most of us got in school at the long and complicated history of what it took to achieve suffrage for every eligible adult in this country. There is a special emphasis on how long it took for Black women to achieve suffrage.

The first performance was a live one with an overflowing audience in attendance at the Eastern Branch Library, on March 1, 2020. That was just days before the pandemic put an end to in-person gatherings which meant that other planned performances had to be canceled. The second performance was one recorded by the cast from their home computers. It was presented for the NJ LWV in August on the anniversary of the date that Tennessee ratified the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution making suffrage for women the law of the land. More than 150 individuals viewed that performance on Zoom and it continues to be available on the LWV website.

The feedback from both performances was positive, and some who saw them suggested that it should be more widely shared. The group that originally wrote and performed *Suffragists Speak* began to think about the possibility of a more professional filming of it, especially as the

pandemic rolled on and the 100th anniversary year of women's suffrage went into the history books. The election of 2020 and events following it also reminded many of us that the right to vote is not one to take for granted. As a result, the authors and performers decided to seek grant funding for a more professional recording of the program.

Connie Goddard of NMCB and Anne Torre Beebe of the LWV collaborated on a grant application to the NJ Council on the Humanities on behalf of the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center and received a \$500 grant that could be used for a professional filming. **Pat Baroska**, Central Jersey AAUW Coordinator and joint member of Northern Ocean County (NOC) and NMCB branches, and **Marian Wattenbarger** of NMCB collaborated on a grant request to the AAUW NJ Charitable Trust which awarded a \$1000 grant for the new filming. Other funds have been provided by local LWV organizations. As a result, on Friday, March 19, *Suffragists Speak* was filmed at the Glass Bottom Studios in Tinton Falls, and the cast looks forward to offering this professional film free of charge to schools, civic groups, congregations and others who would like to see it. Members of the cast are also available to meet (currently virtually, hopefully in the future in person) with groups who have viewed the video, to share what they learned in researching and writing the script.

The new film will have its debut presentation in May through the auspices of the Monmouth County Library System. More information about how to participate in that event will be available in the next NetWorks. The partners in this collaboration decided that the permanent home of the film would be the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center, a National Historic Site in Red Bank, that honors a man, born into slavery, who became a great journalist, and was a supporter of women's rights in the early 20th Century. Both NJ AAUW and the LWV have a shared copyright with the Fortune Center, and any one of the three organizations can sponsor a program using this film. Marian Wattenbarger is the contact for AAUW for those interested in knowing more about how to have a sponsored event with AAUW.

Members of the NMCB of AAUW who participated in the planning, writing and performing of *Suffragists Speak* are Connie Goddard who played Alice Paul, **Gilda Rogers** who played Fannie Lou Hamer, **Lorraine Stone** who played Ida B. Wells, and Marian Wattenbarger who played Susan B. Anthony. The idea for a collaborative program on the fight for suffrage was born on a walk that Connie Goddard took with Anne Torre Beebe. The permanent home for the film will be the Fortune Cultural Center, a site that exists because of Gilda Rogers' vision and persistence in seeing that it was saved. Gilda and Lorraine Stone have both served on the Center's board since its inception.

On a personal note, my college roommate, a long time teacher in Colorado and the mother of the first Latina Justice on the Colorado Supreme Court, watched the August video of *Suffragists Speak*. She was so taken with it that she has shared it with friends and former professional colleagues in that state. As a result, at least one teacher there is sharing it with her high school students. Although our initial vision was to share this story with folks in Monmouth County, we thought that if we got the grants we could then share it more widely throughout NJ. However, you may, as I do, have a former roommate, family member or colleague in another state and perhaps you will want to consider sharing it with them. It's a part of our history that should be more widely known.

Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed, has his or her inalienable voice in government.

Carrie Chapman Catt quote from *Suffragists Speak*

The **Annual Meeting** of the membership of the **American Association of University Women of New Jersey** will be held on Saturday, April 17, at 10:00 A.M. via Zoom video conference. All members of AAUW branches in New Jersey are encouraged to attend.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Northern Monmouth County Branch

7th Annual Scholarship Event

featuring

Francine Garson

author of *Follow the Leader* and *Things*

Thursday ♦ April 29 ♦ Noon

In the comfort of your home via Zoom



This year, no panoramic view, no lovely lunch, no adrenaline rush with the announcement of winning tickets. Instead you will have an hour of pleasure being entertained by writer's life stories from Francine Garson and celebrate our Women of Achievement, Anna Diaz-White and Gwendolyn Love, all in support of AAUW-NMCB's scholarships and special programs for women and girls. **Please join us!**

Note: You will receive your Zoom link and other information about the event by email.

Ms. Garson's books are available on Amazon and will be specially priced from April 10 through May 10. They will also be available at the AAUW-NMCB book sale on May 1 when Ms. Garson will be on hand to sign books from 10:30 until 12:30 PM.

The every-Saturday book sale is in the basement of Old First Church, 69 Kings Highway, Middletown.

Questions? 732-275-2237 or aauw.nmcb@yahoo.com



Gwendolyn O. Love
Executive Director
Lunch Break



Anna Diaz-White
Executive Director
180 Turning Lives Around

NAME

EMAIL

ADDRESS

PHONE

Suggested donation levels \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ (AAUW-NMCB is a 501(c)(3) organization.)

Check payable to "AAUW-NMCB"; send to AAUW-NMCB, PO Box 398, Red Bank, NJ 07701

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or at www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org

To pay by credit card, click on **this link**:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=U7WTDSPXQ3HPS

Or at www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org



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

To volunteer: Annabelle Boehm

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AAUW's *Outlook* magazine that used to
arrive in the mail?

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with your email address and zip code.

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Branch phone 732-275-2237



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