

American Association of University Women



Invites
Northern Ocean and
Freehold Branches

Interbranch Meeting

Excerpts from film

**"The Women's Revolution:
How We Changed Your Life"**

Muriel Fox, co-founder of NOW

Reflects on actions that made our country
more equitable women

**"Equity for All: NOW What?
Multi-generational Panel Discussion"**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

Brookdale Community College
Student Life Building
Twin Lights Rooms 106 and 107
Parking Lot 7



NMCB Scholarship Luncheon Update

Our **9th Annual Scholarship Luncheon at Beacon Hill Country Club** is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 30**. Please support this event by sending in your reservations. See our flyer on page 10.

Our keynoter this year is Anastasia Rubis, author of *Oriana*. She is a NJ resident, graduate of Brown University and Montclair

State University, where she taught essay writing. Her biographical novel tells the story of Oriana Fallaci, one of the first women to break through the glass ceiling of journalism, paving the way for Barbara Walters and Christiane Amanpour, who has called her a role model.

Our Women of Achievement are two vital women who have made a difference in Monmouth County. Their inspiring work has helped many others. Come to meet Reverend Joyce Phipps, pastor of Old First Church, where our book sale is held, and an immigration attorney, who works tirelessly in these difficult times. Mai Cleary is a co-founder of Oasis tlc in Middletown, a non-profit that "promotes the inclusion and acceptance of adults with autism in their local communities by establishing environmentally exemplary farm centers that provide meaningful work, healthy and peaceful residences, and community interaction." Maybe some of you have enjoyed their Wednesday teas or participated in their goat yoga classes.

We are hoping for a sunshine-filled day in this beautiful venue. Come to enjoy a delicious lunch and to take a chance on our wonderful gift baskets. Our industrious committee hopes to see you there.



Presidents' Message

Dear Friends,

March is designated as Women's History month. There are many, many women that have furthered social progress, made scientific breakthroughs, and championed medical causes. You only hear about them in March.

So, this March I (Heather) would like to highlight a lesser-known suffragist, feminist, antimilitarist, and founder of the ACLU – Crystal Eastman.

Crystal Eastman was very well known in her time, but much of her history has faded away. She was born in Marlborough, MA to two Congregational Ministers. Her mother, Annis Bertha Ford, was one of the first women in the US



"What, then, is 'the matter with women'? What is the problem of women's freedom? It seems to me to be this: how to arrange the world so that women can be human beings, with a chance to exercise their infinitely varied gifts in infinitely varied ways, instead of being destined by the accident of their sex to one field of activity -housework and child-raising. And second, if and when they choose housework and child-raising, to have that occupation recognized by the world as work, requiring a definite economic reward and not merely entitling the performer to be dependent on some man."
Crystal Eastman, "Now We Can Begin"



ordained as a Protestant minister. The family moved to Elmira where her parents were the pastors of the Church of Thomas K. Beecher. Mark Twain's family were also members of the congregation. I feel a particular affinity for Elmira as my mother's family is from there.

Eastman earned a bachelor's degree from Vassar College in 1903, a master's in sociology from Columbia University in 1904, and a law degree in 1907 from New York University.

As a lawyer, she worked for workers' rights, especially in terms of workplace accidents. After co-founding the American Union Against Militarism, she formed the National Civil Liberties Bureau within the Union. That division eventually became the ACLU.

A prolific author of many articles and books, she ran a socialist magazine with her brother Max called *The Liberator*. The periodical published essays, art, fiction, and poems by many prominent writers and other creatives including Ernest Hemingway and Helen Keller. It also fought against propaganda and was seen as a threat to national security by the US government.

Eastman was an active suffragist and joined Alice Paul and Lucy Burns to found the Congressional Union (National Woman's Party) to work towards an amendment to the Constitution rather than a state-by-state movement. She is most well known for her speech "Now We Can Begin," given after the amendment was won for Women's Suffrage. She saw Suffrage as not the end but the beginning of the fight for women's rights. She urged Suffragists to fight for equal rights for women.

Read her entire speech here:

<https://awpc.cattcenter.iastate.edu/2017/03/09/now-we-can-begin-1920/>

Her accomplishments are too numerous to mention in the scope of this letter. If you wish to learn more about this remarkable woman you can visit

<https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/crystal-eastman-the-aclus-underappreciated-founding-mother>

<https://www.nps.gov/people/crystal-eastman.htm>

We hope you will join us for a fantastic Interbranch meeting on March 12th at Brookdale. Bring a friend! We are still running the “Shape the Future” membership drive.

April 30th is the 9th Annual Scholarship Luncheon at beautiful Beacon Hill – support a future woman who will make a difference and have a good time with friends! Register today for the scholarship luncheon.

Freedom is a large word. – Crystal Eastman

It is not so much that women have a different point of view in politics as that they give a different emphasis. And this is vastly important, for politics is so largely a matter of emphasis. -- Crystal Eastman

Read more at
<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/crystal-eastman-quotes>

Happy Spring!
Heather & Marian



Marian Wattenbarger

Heather Balczarek

NOTICE OF BY-LAWS CHANGE TO BE APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP

The following change to our branch By-laws was approved by the board members on February 24. Any change to the By-laws must first be approved by the board and then be sent to all members at least ten days prior to a membership vote on the proposed change. That vote on this proposed change will be taken at the March branch meeting scheduled for March 12 from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M., at Brookdale. All members present will be able to vote on an individual ballot as they check in for the meeting.

We will schedule a Zoom meeting with the Co-presidents prior to that date for any members

who have questions about the change, and the link for that meeting will be sent to all members.

The motion for the change that follows was made by **Nancy Butler**, seconded by **Susan Gelber**, and passed by a unanimous vote of the board members present at the February board meeting. The motion changes the date of the Annual Meeting from the April branch meeting to a designated meeting between April 1 and May 31 of any calendar year.

The change is to By-laws Article XVII - Meetings of the Membership
Section 2. Annual Meeting. One general membership meeting held between April 1 and May 31 shall be designated the Annual Meeting with the exact date, time, and place to be determined by the board.

The rationale for this change is that often the annual Scholarship Luncheon is in April and there may be no April Branch meeting. It also provides additional time for the Nominations Committee to complete its work and notify branch members.

We hope to see you at the March meeting and ask you to please take the time to vote.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility

We will be doing the *Shape the Future* membership campaign at the Interbranch meeting on Wednesday, March 12, at Brookdale and at the scholarship luncheon on Wednesday, April 30, at the Beacon Hill Country Club. A new member can join AAUW at a reduced rate of ½ off the National dues. This membership will extend to June 30, 2026. Bring a friend(s) and encourage them to join and share in this great savings. Cash or check only.

New Members:
Susan Buccellato

Kean
Art, nature, reading

Claire Garland

Monmouth, Rutgers Educator

Donna Patterson
Roger Williams
Animal rescue, cruising, magic

Co-Membership Directors:
Mary Lea Burden
Judy Kramer

EDUCATION OUTREACH

by Connie Goddard

Resilience and Tenacity Characterize Brookdale Scholarship Winners

Last fall, the Education Outreach Committee, working with Brookdale officials, substantially altered the way our scholarship awards are given to students there. The result has been gratifying. Now, students apply for the awards, which are worth \$2000 each and can be used for any purpose that aids the student in meeting her educational goals.

The office of the Brookdale College Foundation selects the winners, and we are so pleased that they exemplify the rationale behind the awards. One winner noted that the past year had, for her, been one of hardship and loss, so “resilience” became her “guiding word for 2024.” And, as 2025 began, she said it was to be a “year of tenacity.”

The three awards are named after three long-term AAUW-NMCB members. All three were involved with education: Audrie LaTowsky and Louise Marsen at Brookdale (LaTowsky as a trustee and Marsen as a librarian); Ruth Kennedy at schools in New Jersey and abroad.

Two of the winners noted that family medical issues have determined their career paths. One cared for her father as he died of cancer; thus, she decided to leave a job in the financial industry and pursue a BSN specializing in oncology. Another is the mother of a nonverbal child who has been diagnosed with autism. Her goal is to complete a master’s degree in social work through a partnership program between Brookdale and Rutgers, and then to establish a therapeutic facility for children with neurological differences. Another winner aims to be a nurse midwife because of her concern for the “alarming disparities in maternal mortality” that adversely affect Black women.

One of the winners noted that she is the child of immigrant parents who “worked tirelessly” to support her earlier education. Like the other two, she is a parent herself, and “despite the challenges of balancing school and family life,” she looks forward to having her children see her “achieve her dream.”

In addition to noting how these scholarships have relieved them of financial stress, the winners for this year said they were dedicated to giving back to the communities that have supported them. One wrote that she has been volunteering with Lunch Break. (Note that comments in quotation marks above are from the students’ applications and letters of appreciation.)

All three have also sent thank you notes, which I’ve circulated to members of the Education Outreach Committee, so we thank them for expressing their gratitude. Otherwise, Brookdale has requested that we not publish their names. But do join us in wishing them well as they pursue their dreams.

Hymer Scholarship Winners Exemplify Her Priorities

Awardees of the Esther Hymer Scholarship at Monmouth University represent a substantial complement to the career of Esther Hymer, for whom the award is named. An early supporter of the United Nations and an active member of

AAUW-NMCB for many years, Esther dedicated herself to advocating for women's equality around the world.

Both Michelle Rymar and Mariami Ramirez, who were each awarded \$1000 from the Hymer scholarship this year, are majoring in political science with an interest in international relations.

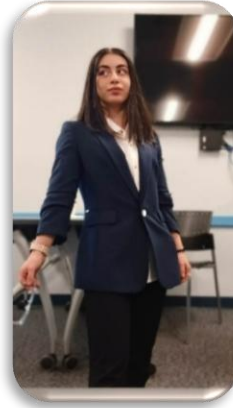
Michelle, whose parents immigrated from Ukraine, stated that she became interested in politics during 2020, a "volatile election year," while she was still in high school. Once at Monmouth, she became involved with the Model United Nations debate team, an experience she says has been valuable for research she intends to pursue. Of particular interest to her is voter behavior at the local level, the effect of education on turnout, and the evolution of executive power. Currently, Michelle is weighing options for her future: graduate school to become a professor or law school, including an option for studying abroad.



Michelle

As an immigrant from the country of Georgia at age 11, Mariami has direct experience living under another political system. A member of the Long Branch High School debate team, she has continued that interest at Monmouth. Through it, she traveled to Kolkata in India last year, where she worked with a program that helps orphaned children get a high-quality education. She mentored students in a debate about gender equality in India. At Monmouth, she is active with Students Advocating for Girls

Education. Her career plans are now focused on international law and politics in Eastern Europe. Among her goals is continuing to bring students of different races, genders, and nationalities together, an effort she has undertaken while at Monmouth.



Mariami

Esther Hymer, noted by friends for her "grace and service," would likely be pleased that the scholarship named in her honor is going to aid Michelle and Mariami in pursuing their careers.

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES

AAUW in Action (from "Mission & Action" email newsletter dated 2/20/25)

AAUW acts on a range of issues that align with our Public Policy Priorities through engaging our action network, advocating through social media, and signing coalition letters. In the first few weeks of the 119th Congress, we have endorsed letters on protecting Title IX and education equity (opposing Linda McMahon's nomination as U.S. Secretary of Education), civil rights (opposing H.R.28 and EO 14166), economic security (supporting the Job Protection Act), and reproductive rights. [All letters endorsed can be found here.](#)

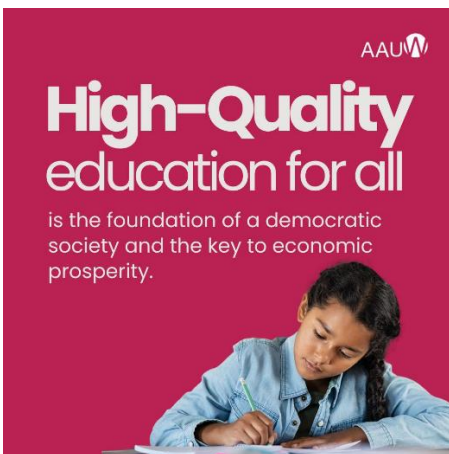
And in the newsletter, Gloria assures us that: "AAUW remains unwavering in our commitment to education and equity. ... We will continue to advocate fiercely and stand firm against any threats to educational opportunities

despite the uncertainty we're all feeling right now.

"There are many issues that may need to be addressed moving forward, but now and in the future, AAUW is focused on safeguarding higher education."

Secretary of Education Confirmation

AAUW has been forcefully opposing the confirmation of Linda McMahon for U.S. Secretary of Education. An AAUW Press Release on 2/13/25 quotes CEO Gloria Blackwell: "AAUW calls on the Senate to reject McMahon's nomination and demand a leader who will uphold the mission of the Department of Education: to expand opportunity, protect civil rights, and invest in students' success. Anything less would be a betrayal of our nation's commitment to educational equity and opportunity for all." [Read our statement here for more details about how we are moving forward.](#)



Webinars

"Title IX: An Uncertain Future"

Hosted by AAUW-NJ on Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m. Register at link on the flyer that is on page 8 of this *NetWorks*.

What Every Woman Should Know About Social Security

March 25th at 1-2 p.m.: Trisha Mentzer from the Social Security Administration breaks down essential benefits and programs tailored for women, helping you make informed decisions

at every life stage. [Register here!](#)

Women's Economic Empowerment:

The [2025 Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative \(WEEI\) Webinar schedule](#) is open to College/University members for students, staff, and faculty; and now all AAUW members have access to this award-winning programming.

Live sessions are free! [Register](#) here.

March events include:

AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value
and Get Paid March 11 5-6 p.m.

AAUW Smart Start
March 19 12-1 p.m.

AAUW Money Smart: Smart Future
March 26 3-4 p.m.

Nancy Butler, 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

Thank you to **Susan Gelber** for hosting our February meeting. Ten members enjoyed crackers and cheese, coffee, and tea. We had lots to say about *The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession* by Michael Finke. In this spellbinding portrait of obsession and flawed genius, the author takes 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.

Friday, March 14, 11:00 a.m.

Rechnitz Hall DiMattio Gallery

Michael Malpass: Renaissance Man

Through the alchemy of welding and traditional blacksmithing, Michael Malpass commanded steel, bronze, copper, and brass with a sculptor's precision. He elevated these industrial remnants, liberating them from their utilitarian past, and reimagined them as vibrant works of art—imbuing them with new life and meaning.

Lunch following the exhibit TBD.

No meeting in April. See you at the Scholarship Luncheon on April 30.

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:

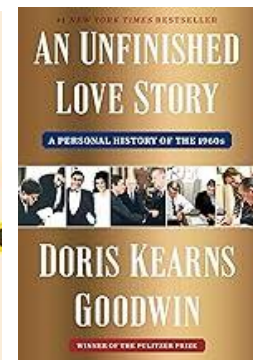
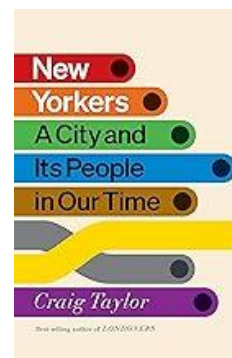
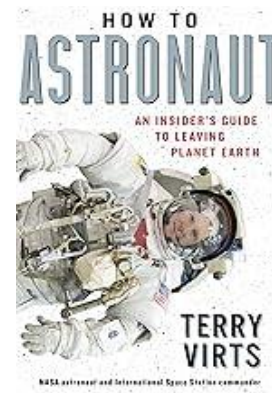
March 11: *How to Astronaut: An Insider's Guide to Leaving Planet Earth* by Terry Virts. We will gather at 2 p.m., at the Eastern Branch, Monmouth County Library. We plan to find a seating area to accommodate our group.

Date Change: April 15: *New Yorkers: A City and Its People in Our Time* by Craig Taylor. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m., at the Holmdel Library inside Bell Works in Holmdel.

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



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

Book Sale Book Sale Book Sale

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 AAUW Used Book Sale had a very successful Half-Price Day on January 25, with proceeds of \$467! Please pass the word about our Book Sale. We need more customers on regular Saturdays. We are happy to have Georgian Court Student, Nidia Jimenez-Barrios helping out for a while!

If you haven't been to the book sale lately, stop in to see what great items we have. Besides books there are CDs, DVDs, audio books, vinyl records, puzzles, games and cards. We welcome children and have hundreds of books for toddlers through middle school young adult novels. Our prices for kids start as low as 10 cents each.

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 or call 732-275-2237.

Scholarship Luncheon

Save the Date

Wednesday, April 30, 2025



FEATURING OUR MEMBERS

Member **Claire Garland** serves on the Advisory Board for the Monmouth County 250th Committee and would like to keep everyone informed about upcoming events celebrating our county. You will find a calendar of upcoming events on page 11.

Marilyn Baldi's photograph "Mindful Bodhisattva" will be exhibited in the Guild of Creative Art's *Eyesights* juried photography show from March 1 through March 26. "Shadows SF MoMA" will be at the Monmouth Museum in their annual juried show

from March 1 through April 13. " Cable Vision" and "Sinfully Dali" will be exhibited at the Art Society of Monmouth County's Oldies but Goodies show in the Middletown Library from March 1 through March 28.

Joan Fruchter and **Arlene Smelson** also have works included in the Art Society of Monmouth County's Oldies but Goodies show.

Connie Goddard will be presenting *Learning For Work: How Industrial Education Fostered Democratic Opportunity* in May, as part of Brookdale Community College's Lifelong Learning offerings. More information and registration details can be found at: https://www.brookdalecc.edu/documents/Lifelong%20Learning/SP25_LLL_final_4websmaller.pdf?t=1736461659.

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 April 2025 *NetWorks* copy is Thursday, March 27.

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*.

NMCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Revised copy 24 February 2025

Co-Presidents

Heather Balczarek
Marian Wattenbarger

Kathy Olsen

Program Director

Barbara Withers

Recording Secretary
Sonia Dorn

Membership Co-Directors

Mary Lea Burden
Judy Kramer

Education Outreach Co-Directors

Annette Benanti
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Connie Goddard

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Katharine McCleary

Study Group Director
Susan Gelber

Public Policy Director

Nancy Butler

Corresponding Secretary
Susan Gelber

Communication Director

Karen Topham

Member at Large and DEI Convener
Susan Gelber (acting)

Development Co-Directors

Margaret Graf

Susan welcomes your concerns,
your reflections on your membership,
and how NMCB can better realize its mission
and values.

9th Annual Scholarship Luncheon



featuring
Anastasia Rubis

author of **Oriana**
the story of the brilliant and trailblazing
Italian journalist, Oriana Fallaci.

Wednesday ♦ April 30 ♦ Noon
Beacon Hill Country Club
Atlantic Highlands, NJ

Please join us to celebrate our **2025 Women of Achievement**,
Mai Cleary, Co-founder of OASIS tlc, and Rev. Joyce Antila Phipps,
Pastor, Old First Church and Immigration Attorney. Support AAUW-
NMCB's scholarships and special programs for women and girls.
Feast on an elegant three course meal and enjoy a spectacular
view.

\$95.00 - Firm deadline for reservation receipt is April 12.

----- Reservation -----

NAME

EMAIL

ADDRESS

PHONE

_____ x \$95. = _____
NUMBER

_____ TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED

Please seat me with _____ or feel free to make a table assignment. ☐

ENTRÉE CHOICE:

- ☐ Chicken Piccata
- ☐ Salmon with dill sauce
- ☐ Pasta Primavera

CASH ONLY bar available. Handicapped accessible.

Please make checks payable to "AAUW-NMCB"

Send to **AAUW-NMCB, PO Box 398, Red Bank, NJ 07701** for receipt by April 12.

Or pay by credit card at www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org

AAUW-NMCB is a 501(c)(3) organization.

I cannot attend, but I am including a scholarship donation. ☐ For more info-**732-275-2237**

I wish to pre-order book, **Oriana** ☐ \$20 (Pay and receive book at luncheon.)



July 23, 2025

One Year Out Kickoff
Monmouth County Fair

May 2-3, 2026

Revolutionary Weekend in Old Monmouth

May 17, 2026

Revolutionary Hunter Pace - Tatum Park,
Middletown Township

June 14, 2026

10k and Family Fun Run - Bell Works, Holmdel

June 26, 2026

250 Gala

June 28, 2026

250 Parade in Middletown
on the anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth

July 3-4, 2026

Sail250 (formerly OpSail) - Tall ships arrive
at Sandy Hook Bay on July 3,
depart for NY Harbor at 8am on July 4

Events, dates and locations are subject to change.
Events will be listed on MonmouthNJ250.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

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. 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

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

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

Branch phone 732-275-2237

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



Join AAUW-NMCB on Facebook!

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