



**NMCB Annual
Branch Meeting
and
“Cocktail Hour”**

Monday, May 10

5:00 P.M.

Via Zoom

Election of Officers

And Socializing

Bring your refreshments

and beverage

Dress to the Nines

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By the time you receive this issue of *NetWorks*, we will have already held our annual scholarship “luncheon” event. We will have heard from author Francine Garson and will have honored our two Women of Achievement Gwen Love and Anna Diaz-White. We have postponed our luncheon reservation at Beacon Hill Country Club for one more year until the same time in April 2022. You may recall, it was originally scheduled for a year ago, in April 2020.

What a year it has been. The pandemic may just become the defining event of the 2020s, as the Great Depression was of the 1920s. (Funny how the Depression completely overshadowed the worldwide pandemic only a decade earlier in our collective memories.) Here in this country, we are looking forward to the pandemic’s end, as nearly half of us get vaccinated, and cases finally start to go down (if we can just hold it together). I wish that were true of the rest of the world. Sigh . . .

I was completely involved in Earth Week April 19-23, planning, moderating or presenting a total of five programs in five days. It was exhausting but completely worth it. To top things off, President Biden announced at a virtual summit of over 40 world leaders that the US would commit to reducing our carbon emissions by at least 50% by 2030. That puts a lot of pressure on Congress to pass the President’s infrastructure plan, which is the only way we can create all the clean energy needed to reach that goal. It makes me optimistic to see so many people now “get it” and who are working toward my mission of leaving a livable world for our children and grandchildren.

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 AAUW NMCB 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: May 20, 3 p.m., via Zoom, Garden Art, found and presented by group members. On June 10, 11 a.m., we will meet in person for a picnic lunch and walk at Thompson Park, in the Lincroft section of Middletown. 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

NMCB truly has a year to look forward to with an excellent slate of officers that we will be voting on at our **Annual Branch Meeting** on May 10.

I am so pleased to announce the nominees for the offices whose term begins July 1, 2021, and runs through June 2023. They are **Heather Balczarek & Marian Wattenbarger** (Co-presidents), **Katharine McCleary** (Treasurer), **Sonia Dorn** (Recording Secretary), **Alice MacPhee & Barbara Withers** (Program Co-directors), **Annabelle Boehm & Karen Topham** (Communications Co-directors), and **Mary Gatta & Gilda Rogers** (Public Policy Co-directors).

Many thanks go to the Nominating Committee of **Mary Anne Anderl, Marilyn Baldi, Annabelle Boehm, Lynda Griffith, Lauren Nicosia** – Co-chair, **Kathy Olsen**, and **Marian Wattenbarger** – Co-chair for a job well done.

As I mentioned we will be holding our Annual Branch Meeting and "Cocktail Hour" on May 10 at 5 pm. The only order of business is to elect officers. Before and after that we will socialize for the rest of our "Cocktail Hour." Bring your own refreshments and beverage of choice. Dress for the occasion, if you wish (and if you are tired of pajamas). Hope to see everyone there.

I do hope everyone stays well.

Pat Miller, President

Membership Matters

Membership is Everyone's Responsibility

The **annual dues mailing** will be going out the first week of May. Please be on the lookout for it. We would appreciate it if you will also fill out the **volunteer form** on the reverse side of the dues form.

Membership Co-directors :
Deb Blood

Mary Lea Burden

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.

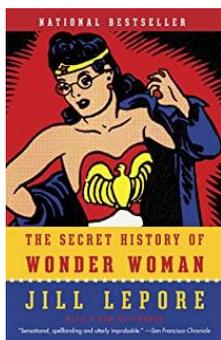
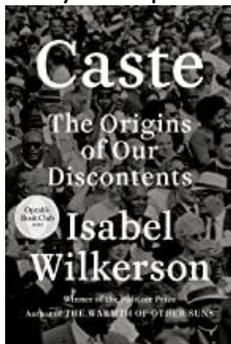
German Conversation

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

Insights

Insights will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.

Our June selection is *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore.



Contact chair, Kathy Olsen or further information.

New members are always welcome.

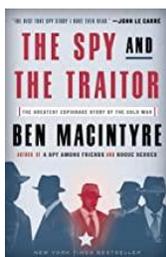
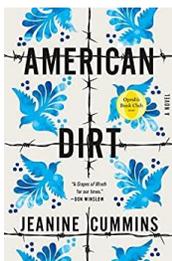
Literature

Upcoming meetings will be held on ZOOM.

Scheduled dates and book titles are:

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.

#

Annual Reports

AAUW Used Book Sale

Book Sale closed because of Covid-19 in March 2020 and re-opened in October 2020. Face masks and social distancing were/are required; sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizers are available to our volunteers and customers. Saturday sales are considerably lower than in previous years for obvious reasons. (Book Sale income information will be included in the annual Treasurer's report at the end of the fiscal year.)

The Sale was mostly managed by **Ruth Hodum, Kathy Olsen, and Irene Gibson. Annabelle Boehm** did a great job of staffing the sale every Saturday with two shifts: 9 - 11:00 and 11:00 - 1:00. There were Saturdays where Annabelle had difficulty staffing both shifts. Hopefully, with the easing of restrictions and availability of vaccinations, members who previously volunteered will again be available and willing to work. We had a consistent team of volunteers to help sort, shelve and take in donations on Thursdays from 10 - 11:30, including **Mary Lea Burden, Sonia Dorn, Ellen Jackson, Sherri Rao** and Ruth, Kathy and Irene and others.

With the help of Mary Lea we increased our publicity in other publications including Atlantic Highlands, Community Magazine and the Journal. Lynn Humphrey who hosts a web site, *The BizEturtle*, gave us consistent publicity of the book sale as well as other AAUW programs.

Annabelle and Irene sent notices to the Middletown and Holmdel-Hazlet *Patch* sites. Info was sent to Board members asking all who could to send Book Sale info to their local *Patch* Event page. This is free advertising.

Submitted by Irene Gibson
On behalf of the Book Sale Committee

Membership

Member data as of April 26, 2021:

Members: 116 (including Honorary Life and Life 12, Dual 4, Guests 0, E-students 0)

Note: 4 new members during fiscal year 2020; 5 new members fiscal year 2021-22.

The option of renewing membership on our website using PayPal worked well this past year. This will be continued for the next fiscal year.

Transitions: Members moved out of the area:
Susan Boyce

The traditional yearbook was not printed this year due to the pandemic and lack of a yearbook chair. Deb was able to publish an electronic membership directory which was emailed to all members and could be updated periodically. Updates were also published in each issue of *NetWorks*. Those without email were sent the directory by USPS and they are also mailed the *NetWorks* each month.

Member Recruitment:

Despite the pandemic and lack of in-person meetings this year, we recruited quite a few new members. Several of these new members came via the branch website.

Submitted by: Deb Blood and Mary Lea Burden

Nominations Committee

The Nominees for AAUW NMCB 2021-2023

Co-presidents: Heather Balczarek & Marian Wattenbarger

Treasurer: Katharine McCleary

Recording Secretary: Sonia Dorn

Program Co-directors: Alice MacPhee & Barbara Withers

Communications Co-directors: Annabelle Boehm & Karen Topham.

Public Policy Co-directors: Mary Gatta & Gilda Rogers

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Mary Anne Anderl

Marilyn Baldi

Annabelle Boehm

Lynda Griffith

Lauren Nicosia – Co-chair

Kathy Olsen

Marian Wattenbarger – Co-chair

Program

NMCB kicked off its 2020-21 season in August with a virtual version of its highly popular “Suffragists Speak.” This joint project with the T. Thomas Fortune Foundation and League of Women Voters featured suffragists from the mid-1800s through the early 20th Century and into the 1960s, when all women finally won the right to vote.

In September the LWV again partnered with us on a very timely and informative program on how to vote in NJ. The Voting program was a slide presentation by Anne Torre of the League of Women Voters, with **Marian Wattenbarger** as moderator and **Connie Goddard**, who put the whole program together and invited Anne to speak, handling the lively Q&A.

For our December Holiday Branch party, we took a Virtual Trip to Memphis, Tennessee, for an inside tour of Sun Records Recording Studio, known as the birthplace of Rock ‘N’ Roll. Liz Rothman, AAUW Freehold Branch, led our Zoom Discussion on Sun Records and the Rock ‘N’ Roll era. We each supplied our own holiday treats and eggnog.

In January Molly Makris and NMCB member **Mary Gatta** shared the findings from their new book *Gentrification Down the Shore* and discussed the impact of seasonal gentrification in Asbury Park, NJ. Around the turn of the 20th century Asbury Park was a dynamic beachfront resort. As the century wore on, it saw social and economic structural downturns. Today the city has multimillion-dollar beachfront condos for summer tourists, but across the railroad tracks many of Asbury’s long-time residents live below the poverty level and struggle throughout all four seasons of the year.

In February we viewed two short films from the PBS series on American Masters “Unladylike2020: The Changemakers.” “Unladylike2020” includes 26 digital short films featuring courageous, little known and diverse female trailblazers from the turn of the 20th century. **Barbara Withers** selected two for presentation and discussion at our meeting.

In March we heard author Rich Geffken speak about his book *Stories of Slavery in New Jersey* in a program sponsored by the Red Bank Library. The following day we joined member Connie Goddard in a discussion of the material.

And on April 29 we held the Zoom version of last year’s Author Scholarship Luncheon featuring Francine Garson, author of *Follow the Leader*, and honoring Women of Achievement Gwendolyn Love and Anna Diaz-White. We also included a special remembrance of longtime member **Barbara Williamson** whose impact on our Branch and on AAUW NJ was incalculable.

Study Groups

Covid-19 and the associated pandemic restrictions did not stop our Study Groups from providing interesting and informative programs which continued to educate and enrich our lives.

Currently there are five functioning Study Groups in AAUW-NMC Branch. The German and Writing Groups are on hold until face-to-face meetings resume.

Literature and Art History groups were already functioning through private Zoom accounts in September 2020. Due to the diligent work and cooperation of many members we succeeded in establishing a Branch Zoom account which, by October, gave French, Insights and Russian Short Stories Study Groups the ability to schedule meetings of longer duration. Chairs worked to establish time slots on the Zoom calendar. We members have been part of an admirable collaborative effort. Our Branch is composed of women with varying computer skills. President **Pat**

Miller, Art History Co-chair **Susan Buccellato**, and Treasurer **Alice MacPhee** among others, were instrumental in getting us off to a good start and providing continuing Zoom support.

We are all hoping for normalcy to resume. In the meantime, AAUW's mission to provide members with enlightening, enjoyable educational opportunities through Study Group presentations moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Gambuzza, Study Group Director

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

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*.

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7th Annual Scholarship Event

The 7th Annual Scholarship Event was held via Zoom on Thursday, April 29, 2021. Following are some screen shots of honorees and speakers.



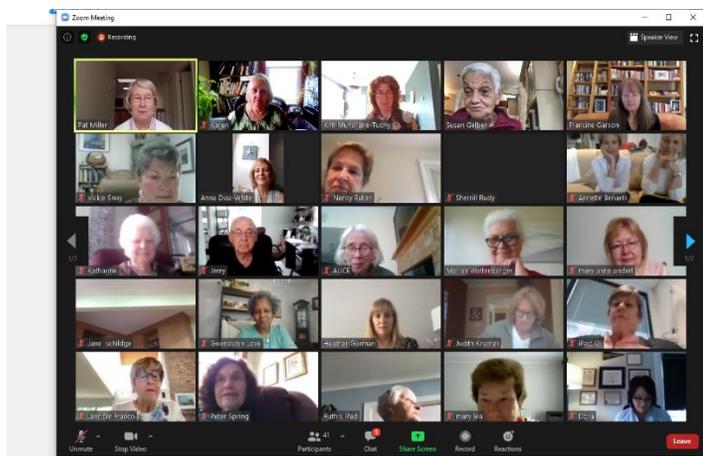
Woman of Achievement Anna Diaz-White
Executive Director, 180 Turning Lives Around



Woman of Achievement Gwendolyn O. Love
Executive Director, Lunch Break



Emcee Marian Wattenbarger with Memorial Glass Sculpture presented to the family of Barbara Williamson, 1942-2019, whose vision created NMCB's Annual Scholarship Event.

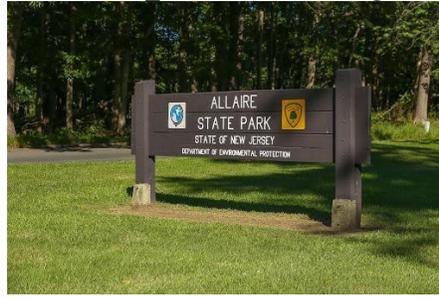


Forty-seven participants signed in via Zoom



Featured Speaker, Francine Garson, Award-winning Writer and Author of *Follow the Leader* and *Things*

AAUW NJ Special Project Event



- Sponsored by AAUW NJ and Coordinated by Central, Northern, and Southern Districts
- Allaire State Park, Monmouth County, 4265 Atlantic Ave. Wall Township, NJ
- (Additional Information provided on Allaire State Park website or 732-938-2371)
- DATE: Saturday September 11, 2021----11:00 A.M.
- (Travel in groups on your own statewide to this Central Location)

Inclusive:



- Open Car Antique Steam Train Ride in Park
- Picnic Area Individual Lunch from Jersey Mikes (sub, chips, cookie, water)
- Picnic Tables available or bring your own folding chair



- At your leisure, tour Open Flea Market (creative vendors)
Historic Village (tour at leisure (All buildings open and appropriately staffed for information and questions)
- Cost: \$40.00 Non- Refundable Checks made out to AAUW NJ
First Come First Serve limited spots available
- Send to Patricia Baroska, AAUW-NJ Central District, 2 Wisteria Place, Howell, NJ 07731
- H-732-458/5906/C-732-267-3127
- Questions Pat/ shorebeachgirl@hotmail.com Northern District Diane/ dianelcrawford@gmail.com
Southern District/ linda.harmon@gmail.com

Donation: will be given to AAUW National Greater Needs Fund by AAUW NJ



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

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-NMCB www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org

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

AAUW-NJ <https://aauw-nj.aauw.net/>

Branch phone 732-275-2237



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