



NetWorks

Newsletter of the Northern Monmouth County (NJ) Branch, American Association of University Women
Volume 69, Number 7

April 2025

9th Annual Scholarship Luncheon

The scholarship luncheon committee is looking forward to a beautiful day at **Beacon Hill Country Club on Wednesday, April 30.**

Come hear author Anastasia Rubis discuss her book *Oriana*, the story of Italian journalist, Oriana Fallaci. The book will be for sale at the luncheon.

Meet and learn about our honorees, Mia Cleary and Reverend Joyce Phipps.

Our baskets are being filled with wonderful prizes.

Be sure to send in your reservation by the **April 12 deadline.** (See page 7 for the registration form.)

See you there.

Presidents' Message

Dear Friends,

We are here not because we are law-breakers, we are here in our efforts to become law-makers - Emmeline Pankhurst, leader of the UK suffragette movement

Tolerance and compassion are active, not passive states, born of the capacity to listen, to observe and to respect others - Indira Gandhi, first woman Prime Minister of India

You don't make progress by standing on

the sidelines whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas - Shirley Chisholm, first black woman to be elected to the US Congress and first black candidate for a major party nomination for President of the United States

The three women quoted above are all featured on the slideshow that we have used recently as members and guests entered meetings. They are part of an impressive group of women who have worked to make women's voices heard and their votes counted. They have made a difference for both women and men, and it seems fitting to close Women's History Month by sharing a few of their thoughts about how change is made. Women's history is not just a program or conversation for one month of the year, it is an ongoing process. In a time when many of the rights that we thought were enshrined in law are threatened, we encourage you to think about what you can do to add your voice to many others working to preserve women's rights under the law.

We also want to encourage you to attend our annual Scholarship Luncheon scheduled for April 30, at Beacon Hill Country Club. It's a great place to gather and enjoy one another's company while supporting one of two major fundraisers that support the scholarships and special programming that this branch offers young women and women coming or returning to higher education later in adulthood. The view is great, the food delicious, the basket raffle a fun way to "shop" and do good at the same time, and you won't want to miss our speaker. Your presence also acknowledges the difference that the Women of Achievement

honorees have made in Monmouth County -- we hope you will be there to say thank you to them.

The other significant fundraiser for this branch is our Used Book Sale. During the winter months, our sales have been lower than in past years so if you are considering buying a book for someone, please visit our Used Book Sale and see what great buys you can find there. Many books look as good as new. There are fiction and non-fiction books of many varieties, and you are welcome to spend as much time as you like checking out what's available. Every book you purchase helps us make a difference for a scholarship applicant, a rising 8th grader looking forward to attending TechTrek camp this summer, or a college student seeking to develop her leadership skills at NCCWSL. The book sale needs more of us to lend a hand as volunteers on Saturdays -- please consider donating some of your time.

April also sees the 2025 Running & Winning Workshop occurring for the 18th time. This collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Monmouth County, the Central Jersey Club, the Junior League of Monmouth County, the Red Bank Chapter of Hadassah, and our branch of AAUW has provided us with the opportunity to educate young women who are juniors in high school about how public policy is made and to provide them with the opportunity to meet women who currently hold public office or help others run for office. If you would like to attend part or all of the day, please contact Marian and she will arrange for you to attend.

It takes many members to make all of the things mentioned in this letter happen, but we want to give a special shout out to **Kathy Olsen** who chairs the luncheon and is also one of the team of chairs, that includes **Ruth Hodum** and **Irene Gibson**, who keep the Used Book Sale open every Thursday and Saturday from September to the end of June, excluding holiday weekends. We are grateful for their dedication, their time, and their many talents that make our branch donations possible.

We also want to give a special thank you to **Katharine McCleary**, our Treasurer, and **Sonia Dorn**, our Recording Secretary. Month after month they do jobs that are less visible but are critical to our ability to function as an organization. They are also a pleasure to work with and we are grateful for the many hours they have given to keep the branch functioning.

We look forward to seeing you on April 30, at Beacon Hill. If you haven't signed up because you don't have a ride, let us know and we'll do our best to make sure you have a ride.

Marian Wattenbarger

Heather Balczarek



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility

National has raised their dues \$2.00 a year for the upcoming 2025-26 year for Regular members, which means that dues will be \$100 for National, State and Branch dues starting April 1, 2025 for our members.

Dues notices will be mailed to all members in May, so please do not pay your dues on the National website as this complicates the work for our treasurer.

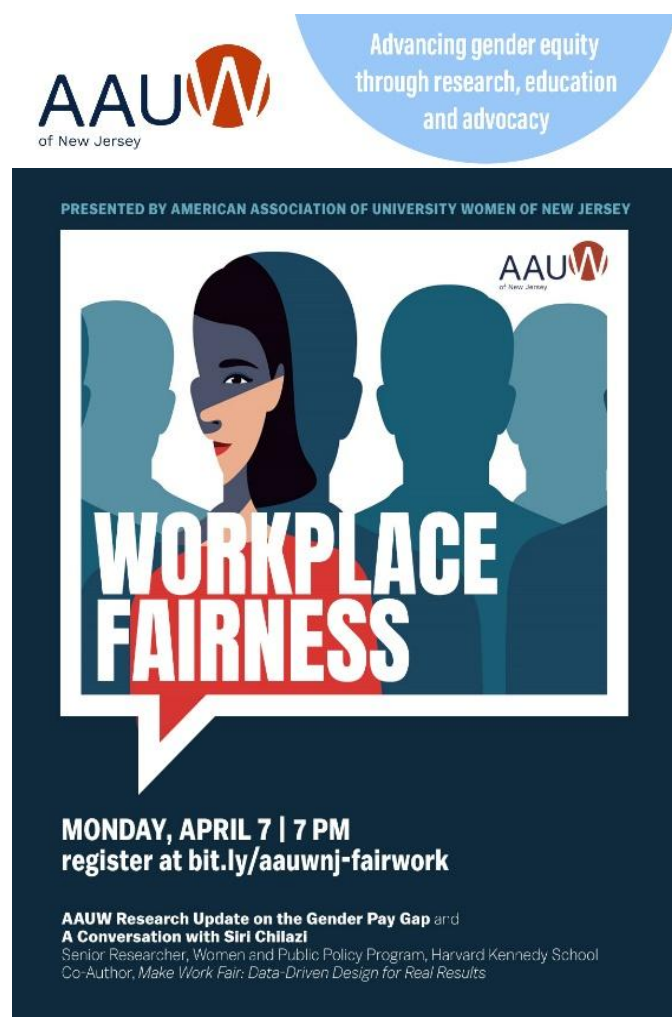
We will be doing the Shape the Future membership campaign at the Scholarship

luncheon on April 30. A new member can join AAUW for \$63.00 instead of the new membership rate of \$100.00. This membership will extend to **June 30, 2026**. Bring a friend(s) and encourage them to join and share in these great savings. Cash or check only.

Co-Membership Directors:

Mary Lea Burden

Judy Kramer



PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES

AAUW in Action

(from CEO Gloria Blackwell's message in "Mission & Action" email newsletter dated 3/25/25)

"If you have not heard the news, the

administration has just issued an Executive Order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. While only Congress has the authority to abolish the Department, this order is the latest in a series of attacks on student rights, educational equity, and civil rights enforcement. [Read our statement here.](#)

"Here is what I say to you: AAUW remains committed to defending and promoting the value of higher education, the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and upholding our mission to advance equity for women and girls.

"Amid these attacks, AAUW is taking action. We have launched the [Defend Higher Education Fund](#) to help elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women. We are holding a series of events on Defending Equity. We are continuing to invest in women through direct funding, leadership development, and support for women in academia.

"Our collective action is needed now more than ever when the consequences are so widespread."

Take Action

- "Stand with Students: Efforts to undermine the U.S. Department of Education—including cuts to critical programs like campus-based childcare, financial aid, and the Office for Civil Rights—threaten students' futures. Urge Congress to protect equal access to education. [Take action now.](#)"
- "Tax-Smart Giving: It's not too late for tax-smart giving options that can help empower women and girls while *also* reducing your tax burden. If you own stock or cryptocurrency or have an IRA or a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF), please [learn more here.](#)"

Education & Training

- "The Not-So-Simple Truth: New Equal Pay Report"
The gender pay gap is worsening. Our new *The Not So Simple Truth* update

breaks it down state by state. Stay informed and advocate for pay equity. [Learn more here.](#)

- “AAUW Weighs In: Washington’s latest attacks on education threaten low-income students, first-generation college-goers, and historically marginalized communities.” [Read our statement](#) on the cuts and chaos at the U.S. Department of Education. This month, we also endorsed efforts to protect Pell Grant funding, education research, student data privacy, and equity-focused federal appointments. [Learn more here.](#)
- April Webinars:
 - Workplace Fairness presented by AAUW NJ on Monday, April 7, 7 p.m. via Zoom. An update on AAUW’s groundbreaking research on the gender pay gap (see link to the new report above) and other workplace inequities, followed by A Conversation with Siri Chilazi, senior researcher in the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard Kennedy School. [Register here.](#)
 - Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs April 15, 7:00 p.m. ET
Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be complex. This interactive session will provide information to AAUW branches on funding scholarships amidst evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls. Space is limited. [Register Here.](#)

And, of course, don’t forget! [Two-Minute Activist](#)

Nancy Butler, Public Policy Director



**Interbranch Panelists Presenting
*Equity for All: NOW What?***
From left to right: Sophia Arena, Paulina Letts, Nidia Jiménez-Barrios, Judy Kramer, Heather Balczarek, Jane Scimeca
Additional photos of the meeting have been published by the WILL students at: [Instagram@WILLBCC.](#)



Study Group News

Dear Friends,
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.

Susan Gelber, Study Group Director

(H) 732-936-0070

(C) 732-895-9333

ssginnj@aol.com

Art History

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.

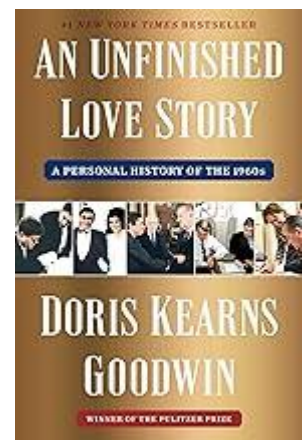
Our upcoming book choices and meetings are as follows:

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; 2 p.m., at the home of Pat Baroska, Howell. RSVP to Pat.

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

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.



Writer's Corner

April is National Poetry Month. I am offering one of mine for early spring. I hope some of you will consider contributing your writing for our May issue.

Dandelions
by Karen Topham

Look! Listen!
Dandelions, yellow flowers buoyantly bobbing
across grassy land next door,
sing to the sun whose color they've copied,
sing from the heart their precious hymn of
being,
sing with thanksgiving for continuing to be.

Listen! Look!
Did you hear their panic when earlier the
mower crossed the sidewalk,
and aiming their way, plunging into the deep
green swath with fiendish intent
to decimate the entire colony, its cruel blade
glinting bright, ready to chomp,
was stopped short of the verge with smoke
puffing darkly from its battery?

Hamlet once pondered, "To be . . . "
Yes! At least for one more day, dandelions
prevail.

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 May 2025 *NetWorks* copy is Thursday, April 24.

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*.

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.)



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.

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Branch phone 732-275-2237

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



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