

**\*\*\* SAVE THE DATES \*\*\***

**Branch Programs**

**Fall 2024**

Wednesday, October 2

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

“It’s My Vote”

Student Life Center

Brookdale Community College

Monday, November 4

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

“Building Resiliency for Today  
and Tomorrow’s Challenges”

Workshop presented by Diane Lang  
Shrewsbury Historical Society

Monday, December 2

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

“Celebrate with the Arts”

Shrewsbury Historical Society

**\*\*\* SAVE THE DATES \*\*\***

**Presidents’ Message**

Dear members and friends,  
It’s that time of year again when summer transitions into fall - days are warm and nights are cool; children return to school; and carefree days without a schedule are exchanged for more ordered days. As summer draws to a close, we are eager to begin a new AAUW year of study

and action, and support for girls and women seeking to enlarge their opportunities for learning and growth and making a difference in their communities. We hope that you, as a member of this branch of AAUW, will find your way to contribute to the work we do to advance our mission and that you will enjoy the friends you’ll make doing that.

All of us, as adult citizens of this democracy, have the privilege and obligation to vote in annual elections for local members of school boards and town councils and, over the years, for state and federal office holders. If you are not currently registered to vote in this 2024 election, you still have time to do that, and we encourage you to register and vote.

Please also reach out to young people in your lives and encourage them to register to vote and to vote in this election. A great resource for young voters is *Energizing Young Voters*, an initiative from the League of Women Voters available at [energizingyoungvoters.com](http://energizingyoungvoters.com).

Marian got better acquainted with the writing and speeches of Susan B. Anthony when she had the opportunity to write a portion of the script for *Suffragists Speak* in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women’s suffrage in 2020. A few of Anthony’s quotes come to mind each year as we approach November and election time. We hope you’ll consider these as you prepare to vote:

“There will never be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers.”

“The principle of self-government cannot

be violated without impunity. The individual's right to it is sacred – regardless of class, caste, race, color, sex or any other accident or incident of birth.”

And finally, this brief but pointed statement:

“Men, their rights and nothing more. Women, their rights and nothing less.”

You'll find information on voter education in **Nancy Butler's** message. Nancy is our Public Policy Director and she and other members have been working to prepare us for the year ahead. We'd like to acknowledge her work and that of many others – **Barbara Withers** and her committee planning monthly programs for the upcoming year and we are excited to see everyone at the different events; **Mary Lea Burden** and **Judy Kramer** reaching out to members to remind them it's time to renew their membership and responding to questions and concerns that members have; **Katharine McCleary**, our Treasurer, preparing the 2023/2024 books for audit and overseeing the preparation of the 2024/2025 budget; **Marion Giles** who conducted the audit; **Ruth Hodum**, **Kathy Olsen**, and **Irene Gibson**, our Used Book Sale chairs who closed out a successful 2023/2024 year in May and prepared over the summer to open on September 7; **Connie Goddard**, Education/Outreach Director and Judy Kramer who brought together a committee of six board members to update our BCC scholarship requirements. You'll be learning more about plans for the year ahead in this *NetWorks* and future ones thanks to the work that **Karen Topham** does so skillfully and quickly to prepare our monthly newsletter.

Invite a friend or neighbor to visit a study group or monthly program or stop by the book sale. Membership is vital to our mission and each one of us can be part of recruiting and involving new members.

We value each of you and if you have questions or concerns you'd like to share with us, please reach out to us via phone, text, or email.

Enjoy the final days of summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

*Marian & Heather*

Marian Wattenbarger

Heather Balczarek



~

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility*

Many thanks to those who have paid their dues and returned the interest forms. We truly appreciate those of you who have added an additional donation to your dues. We also thank those Honorary Life members (who no longer pay dues) who have sent generous donations. Over \$2000 has been received to date to allow us to provide stimulating programs and continue our mission projects.

If you are a Regular branch member and paid the \$98.00 dues amount, then \$88 of that amount is tax deductible. If you added an extra donation that would be tax deductible as well.

For those who have not paid their dues to date, please send them in so we can be sure you are listed in the yearbook.

We will be doing a *Shape the Future Membership Drive* at our October 2 branch meeting at Brookdale. This is for new members only and those whose membership has lapsed two years. Please bring your friends to this very

important meeting and suggest they join AAUW at this time. The membership fee will be \$62.00 as opposed to the regular rate of \$98.00.

**In Memoriam:**

**Elaine Lent** died on May 21<sup>st</sup>. She joined our branch in 2003 and presented programs for the branch.

From her obituary we learn that Elaine was a beloved mother, teacher, historian, artist, and community supporter. She graduated from Newark State College in Union, N.J. in 1968, and continued her education from Kean College, completing a Master's degree in Industrial Technology in 1987. She was a Classroom Teacher, Gifted and Talented Coordinator for the Basking Ridge Public Schools until her retirement in 2005. Her dedication to teaching led to her Christa McAuliffe Fellowship award in 1988, as well as an Outstanding Teacher award. One of her greatest pleasures was history and the American Revolutionary War. As a member and historian for Old First Church in Middletown, N.J. she received the Middletown Historic Preservation Award in 2017.

Elaine was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, N.J. Astronomical Society, Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW, N.J. Chapter of People to People International, Middletown Community Outreach Group, Poricy Park Nature Conservatory, Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission, and Monmouth Beach Cultural Center.

**Doris Hudak** died on July 11<sup>th</sup>. She joined our branch in 2003. She also presented branch programs and was Co-President from 2009-2011.

Her obituary shares that after raising four children, Doris went back to school in 1980 to Brookdale Community College to focus her studies in Human Services. Her experience at Brookdale led her to be a grief facilitator and a career counselor, and she eventually received her BS in Human Services from Thomas Edison State University in 1990 at the age of 61. Doris worked at Brookdale as a Cooperative

Education Coordinator, guiding students to find their strengths and interests. She was active with the Alumni Association and later served as President, where she spearheaded multiple fundraising campaigns. She acquired a life-sized statue of the Kentucky Derby winner *Regret*, a racehorse that was trained at Brookdale Farms, the land where the college now resides.

Doris had many hobbies, but most of all she loved to travel. When the Brookdale Asia Society was seeking new students, her interest in China propelled her to join. She became the cymbalist, accompanying performances of the traditional Dragon Dance. She won a gold medal in karate at the age of 68 in France and her enthusiasm was not diminished by the fact that she was the only one competing in her age group. At the age of 70, Doris completed a solo trip around the world visiting China, Inner Mongolia, Tibet, Nepal, India, Egypt, the Greek Islands, Iceland, and Greenland in thirty days. At the age of 76, she walked El Camino de Santiago across northern Spain backpacking alone for 8 days and completing 70 miles. She authored two books about these experiences: *Journey of a Dream: One Woman's Travel Tale* and *A Passage: A Pilgrimage of Trials, Discovery and Gifts Along El Camino*.

In the last year of her life, she was able to combine her lifetime love of horses and her passion for human services by volunteering with *Serenity Stables, From Combat to Calm* which provides equine therapy to veterans.

Membership Co-directors:  
Mary Lea Burden

**IT'S MY  
VOTE!**

## PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES

At the October 2 branch meeting at Brookdale Community College, we will be sharing the *AAUW/It's My Vote 2024 Voter Issue Guide*. You, too, are welcome to share it and use it to steer conversation!

<https://aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-issue-guide/>

In the words of AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell:  
Women's voices have the power to shape the future.

Our votes can steer political discourse toward issues that impact our economic opportunity, education, careers – and our futures. From advocating for gender equity and reproductive rights to championing equal pay and access to education, women have the power to influence the direction of our nation . . .

Let's harness our collective power and drive meaningful change. Between now and Election Day, encourage conversation around the issues that affect our families and communities. Ask the tough questions: Where do our candidates stand on issues that matter to women?

When women vote, we change the conversation.

Make our voice heard! Together, we can pave the way for a more just and equitable future for all.

Nancy Butler, NMCB Public Policy Director

### 2024 Voter Issue Guide

How to Use the *2024 Voter Issue Guide*:  
This nonpartisan guide will help you learn about key issues supporting gender equity so you can cast your ballot for candidates who share your values.

It includes sample questions to:

- Help you evaluate candidates' stances
- Ask at public events (virtual and in-person)
- Discuss over social media

Share this voter guide with friends and family — and make sure everyone votes!

The AAUW Action Fund advances equity for women and girls through member activism and voter mobilization.

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### TechTrek –Summer Residential STEM Camp for Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls in New Jersey



Meet Madelyn Worthley of Eatontown, Remi Colonna of Farmingdale, Nora Weber of Bradley Beach, and Ana Ortiz of Hazlet. All four attended our AAUW TechTrek STEM Camp for a week this July on the campus of picturesque Stockton University. Pictured with them is Monmouth County Camp alumna-now-turned-Dorm-mom Thalia Arce. The picture was taken at Professional Women's Night where the girls have dinner and interact with women currently working in STEM fields, thus introducing the girls to an array of fields that STEM education opens to them.

**Book Sale Book Sale Book Sale**  
**Reopening Saturday, September 7, 2024**

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

Open: Saturdays: 10am - 2pm,  
Thursdays: 10am - 12noon

Donate: Saturdays: 10am - 1:30pm  
Thursdays: 10am - 11:30am Thursdays

Wide selection of items for sale:  
New releases, hardcovers, paperbacks,  
children's books, fiction, non-fiction, histories,  
biographies, CDs, DVDs.

Accepted: Books in good condition - children's  
books through young adult, fiction, history,  
biographies, mysteries, sci-fi, and fantasy.  
Also accepted: CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, and  
videos.

Not accepted: VHS tapes, cassette tapes,  
textbooks, encyclopedias, Readers Digest  
Condensed books, financial, business,  
cookbooks, gardening books, self-help books,  
or computer how-to manuals. No books that  
have been written in or highlighted or any items  
in poor physical condition including moldy,  
water damaged, with broken spines, chewed,  
etc.

All proceeds go toward scholarships for local  
women at Brookdale Community College and  
Monmouth University, as well as book awards  
for the senior girl with the highest math score in  
22 public high schools in northern Monmouth  
County.

The Northern Monmouth County Branch of  
AAUW has been making a difference in the  
community for more than 90 years and  
welcomes new members to join them in  
advancing equity for women and girls.  
Membership in AAUW is open to any graduate  
holding an associate or equivalent,  
baccalaureate, or higher degree from a

This year our chapter was able to enroll all four nominees because - due to the Covid hiatus - Statewide nominations were only thirty-four. Full enrollment in the past had been capped at sixty. AAUW member and Brookdale Community College retired Nursing educator **Maryanne Krenz** partnered with me to interview the nominees. This is an experience we both enjoyed immensely since each girl is so bright, and excited about science, math, and coding. Each is eager to learn and to make the world a better place!

We invite NMCB members who would like to join our team next year for a few hours to interview the 2025 nominees to contact **Annette Benanti** at [annette.benanti@gmail.com](mailto:annette.benanti@gmail.com) Your donations of time and or dollars are most worthwhile!  
Submitted by Annette Benanti

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Each year our branch gifts graduating high school girls in our area with the highest math scores an award of a book and a gift card. (The 2024 book title awarded was *Hope* by Jane Goodall.)

One of the thank you notes we received is transcribed below:

Dear AAUW,  
Thank you so much for honoring me with the math award. Your cause helps to equalize a male dominated field and motivate strong girls to pursue math.  
The one thing I love about math is its accessibility. No matter where you are it's the same. With your foundation you make one more thing accessible—higher education.  
Continue to do what you do!  
Sincerely,  
Alexandra

regionally accredited college or university.

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.



*Boscov's Monmouth Mall* will hold its **charity day** this year on Tuesday, **October 22**.

Purchase a shopping pass for \$5 to benefit our branch. How? You can buy them from Ruth Hodum: call or text her. This allows you a 25% discount on the lowest sale price of any item in the store or online.

Please save the date and encourage friends to buy tickets as well. Tickets sold at the door that day do not benefit our branch, so please plan ahead.

## Study Group News

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. Here are your possibilities.

### Art History

Save the Dates!

Thursday, September 19  
Transportation Exhibit  
Belmar Arts Council  
Belmar, NJ

Thursday, October 17  
Sarah Fishbein: Perfect Brokenness  
ArtsSpace/Monmouth Arts  
99 Monmouth St.  
Red Bank, NJ

Thursday, November 7  
Black Glass Gallery  
Middletown Arts Center  
Middletown, NJ

Saturday, November 30  
Holiday Art Market  
Jersey Shore Arts Center  
66 S Main St,  
Ocean Grove, NJ 07756

Watch your email for details. Any questions, contact the co-chairs.

Joan Fruchter  
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

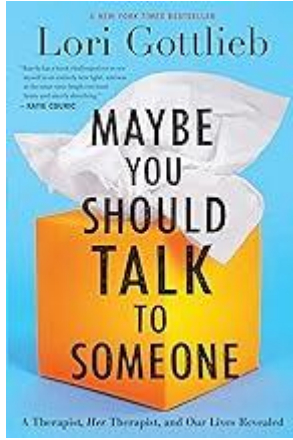
### Insights

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

On September 10, we will meet at 3 p.m. at the home of Dr. Judy Kramer to discuss *The Big Ones: How Natural Disasters Shape Us*, by Dr. Lucy Jones. Please email Judy if you plan to attend.

Our October 8 selection is *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb. Kathy Olsen will host the 3 p.m. meeting in October. For more information, contact Kathy Olsen, chair.

New members are always welcome.



*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 October *NetWorks* copy is Tuesday, September 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](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*.

### 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.

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**Photos from the Summer Branch Meeting,  
held at The Atrium at Navesink Harbor,  
Red Bank, June 3, 2024**



**Enjoying the river views: Margaret, Pat, Heather  
(standing); Susan and Betty (seated)**



**Standing: Marian, Kathy, Judy, Mary Lea, Annette,  
Marilyn, Betty, Margaret, Heather, Karen**

**Seated: Michele, Irene, Sonia, Susan, Barbara**



**Current Co-President Marian Wattenbarger showing her  
much-loved gift for serving as President the first time  
around – in 1979**



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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 Noon

The Book Sale will **reopen on Saturday, September 7, 2024.**  
(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-NMCB [www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org](http://www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org)

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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AAUW-NJ [.AAUWNJ.org](http://.AAUWNJ.org)

Branch phone 732-275-2237

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