

BRANCH MEETING

October 5, 2026

7:00 p.m. Gather, refreshments

7:15 p.m. Call to order

7:30 p.m. Program

Shrewsbury Historical Society

419 Sycamore Avenue

Shrewsbury 07702

We'd like to welcome you to our first branch meeting of this season.

Two distinguished educators will present their views and experiences in higher education. Elaine Hansen is the former president of Bates College in Maine. She is now retired and volunteering at the Asbury Park Book Cooperative. She will tell us about her experiences as a woman in leadership roles.

Joe Bertilino is the current president of Stockton University in NJ. Dr. Bertilino was a member of the Gender Studies committee for AAUW in 2019. He will discuss his efforts to create a culture of opportunity at Stockton University.



Accessed: 7 September 2026
Source: Wikipedia



Accessed: 7 September 2026
Source: Google search

Presidents' Message

Dear Members,

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable and full summer with family and friends! Welcome back to a new season of Northern Monmouth County Branch.

Have you noticed that September and fall actually feel like the start of a new year and a time to reorganize after summer's lazier schedules? Perhaps this is because of distant childhood memories of a new school year complete with new classes, new school supplies, and new friends. I can still smell the new pencil case and crayons.

Our October meeting is traditionally focused on education. To keep this tradition, we will have education-focused guest speakers. Also, some of the girls who participated in Tech Trek or received scholarships from our branch will join us to share their experiences.

An educator you may not have heard of is Leta Stetter Hollingworth. L.S. Hollingworth was a pioneer in education and psychology in the early 1900s. Hollingworth was especially interested in gifted education for children, believing intelligence to be more a factor of education and environment than direct genetic inheritance. Incidentally, Leta was the person who coined the term "gifted."

Born in 1886 in Nebraska, Leta had a difficult childhood. Her mother died when she was Young, and her father abandoned the family to the grandparents. Later, her father reclaimed

his children when he remarried, but he was an alcoholic and abusive parent.

Leta escaped into education. She left home right after high school and then enrolled at the age of 16, in the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She completed her bachelor's degree and teaching certificate in 1906; then, in 1908, she married Harry Hollingworth.

Leta started teaching in Nebraska, but after moving to New York City with Harry, she found that NYC did not allow married women to teach high school. With too much free time, she turned again to education and enrolled at Columbia to get both her master's in education and her Ph.D. For her doctoral dissertation, Hollingworth unequivocally proved that there were no effects on women's mental health or motor functions from their menstrual cycles!

Her first focus was the psychology of women. Discovering that mental institutions had more men as patients than women, because men were diagnosed more often while women's problems were ignored, Hollingworth's experiments concluded that this was due to society rather than innate differences. Women with intellectual disabilities tended to be overlooked, isolated, and not treated. She also showed that there was no intellectual variation between men and women but rather there was a difference in labeling. Men were considered gifted while women were only "mediocre."

Her next focus was the education of gifted children. She noticed that education often overlooked students with gifted abilities, the belief being that these students could fend for themselves and did not need any special help. Hollingworth knew that these students would benefit from curricula tailored to their special needs. She wrote the first comprehensive book on gifted children and was the first to teach a college course on this subject.

We should remember that her early work was narrowly focused on privileged samples reflecting the eugenic ideas common to her time. She was, however, willing to revise her stance as she learned more through her years

of research and as new ideas developed. Her later work reflects conclusions more focused on environment, opportunity, and emotional life.

Hollingworth was an accomplished author who published four books and over 80 journal articles about her research on women's psychology and children's education.

She died of cancer in 1939 and was buried in Lincoln, Nebraska, but her legacy continues today to shape the education and support of gifted learners.

We hope you are looking forward to a new year of AAUW. Come to the branch meetings; we have a lot of exciting programs planned. Come and mingle with AAUW friends, and we encourage you to bring a guest or two! Let's make this the year we grow our membership!

Also remember the book sale is looking for volunteers for Thursdays and Saturdays. This is a great way to get involved in a small way and make a large difference to the branch.

See you soon!
Heather and Peggy

In memoriam - Gloria Steinem, a great woman, feminist, and champion of women's rights.

Did you know - Ms. Steinem originally trained as a tap dancer, competing and performing, hoping that the life of a performer would help her escape life in Ohio.

Heather & Peggy, Co-presidents

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility

Dues notices for the 2026-2027 year were sent out in May. If you have not already paid, please send your check or pay on our branch website so we can keep your membership active.

Elana Maloney, Associate Professor, English, at Brookdale Community College, is looking for adjunct English teachers to teach at BCC. You can reach her at emaloney@brookdalecc.edu for more information.

New Members:

Bernadette Mendez

DeSales U.; Marywood U. Social worker
Board games, reading,
TV/Movies/Music

Joe Bertolino

U. Scranton, Rutgers, Columbia U. President
(Stockton)

Joann M. Huff

New York U. Corporate credit analyst (R)
Investment club, book
club, water sports

Reinstated:

Linda Bricker

Lake Forest College, IL Civic leader/
Volunteer
History, genealogy,
travel

Update yearbook information:

Sarah Lawser new email and phone

In Memoriam:

Madeline Stamato Fedak, 87, native of Monmouth County, passed away peacefully on July 22nd due to natural causes following heart complications.



Madeline was a teacher her whole life; initially in Thompson (Middletown), briefly Memorial (Eatontown), primarily in Memorial (Point Boro) and finally as a private Science and Math tutor in her Wall home. She was also a perpetual student, beginning her educational journey in the Long Branch schools and continuing it throughout her life as she earned degrees from the University of Rochester and Trenton State College. Her passion for learning extended far beyond formal education, encompassing many courses and conferences as she prepared for her students and continually satisfied her own curiosity.

As a lifetime volunteer time was donated to: Holy Trinity RC religious education teaching; WLB schools, including a decade on the Bd of Ed; on numerous AAUW projects for the Jersey Shore and Northern Monmouth County Branches; and in later years as a Family & Children's Service Reading Buddy and AARP tax aide.

Madeline was president of the Jersey Shore branch while **Nancy Butler** was president of NMCB and Jean (Carlson) D'Addario was president of Freehold. The three presidents established the Monmouth County Inter-Branch Council in 1983 to sponsor programs and to take action on issues of a county-wide nature. They also worked together to use an AAUW Public Service Grant to fund the county Adult Literacy Program, and then went on to lead voter registration drives and to provide testimony to EPA regarding ocean dumping of untreated sewerage.

A Memorial Mass will be offered at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jersey Shore Branch AAUW scholarship annuity fund at Monmouth University, WLB.

Co-Membership Directors:

Mary Lea Burden
Judy Kramer

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES



Take Action:

- NMCB is joining other community groups to participate in the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center's **Walk for Democracy** in Red Bank on Sunday, September 27, from 3-5 p.m. The Walk will advocate for voter participation, protection of the United States Constitution and civil and human rights, and the preservation of a free and fair press.

The Walk will begin with participants gathering at Riverside Gardens for speeches by local officials, participating organizations, and community members. Voter registration and educational materials will be available. The Walk along Broad Street, Monmouth Street, and Shrewsbury Avenue will conclude at the Cultural Center on Drs. James Parker Blvd, where light refreshments and tours will be offered. Branch members will receive an email this week with more details and registration information. (See page 9 for flyer)

- Branch member **Theresa Blackburn** continues to lead the **Stand Up for Democracy** rallies in Middletown for Shore Area NOW and Outrage into Action on Wednesday afternoons from 5 to 6 p.m. She has also worked with Greater Red Bank Women's Initiative (GRBWI) and MOCA (Monmouth & Ocean County Action) to organize recent protests on Shrewsbury Avenue in Red Bank. More details on all these activities will be included in the email later this week.

- And, of course, there's our [Two-Minute Activist](#), which makes speaking out easy!
- AAUW members participating in public demonstrations on behalf of AAUW must remain nonpartisan and align with AAUW's mission and priorities. For tips on how to do that, see the **2026 Civic Engagement Guide** at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/2026-civic-engagement-guide/>.

Get Empowered:

- AAUW's recent webinar "Graduate Education is Changing – How do you make sure it still works for you?" was recorded and is now available on YouTube. This was an open and practical conversation about the changing landscape of graduate education and what current and prospective students, and particularly women, should consider as they evaluate their options. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SOo0FudNKc>
- Our virtual **Economic Empowerment Trainings** help women advance professionally and economically:
AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid – training for early and mid-career professionals on negotiating for fair salaries, better benefits, and advancement opportunities.
AAUW Start Smart – designed specifically for college women entering the job market, teaches effective salary negotiation techniques.
AAUW Money Smart – provides all women with the personal finance information they need to ensure their own financial security.

*Register here for [upcoming webinars](#) in September and October. And please share this important resource with family, friends, and students.

Fellowships & Grants:

For 145 years, AAUW has invested in women's education, leadership, and economic security, awarding more than \$150 million to scholars, researchers, and community-based organizations. On July 1, AAUW announced its '26-'27 class of fellowships and grants recipients, awarding a projected \$5.4 million to 219 outstanding women scholars, researchers, and community changemakers across the country and around the world.

*Update! As of July 16, the award total was \$6.1 million for 259 awardees!

Applications for the '27-'28 funding year are now open and close on September 30. Find all information about awards and requirements here:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>

Nancy Butler, NMCB Public Policy Director

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 current possibilities.

Lynda Griffith, Study Group Director

Art History

We had a very successful planning meeting at The Atrium in late August. There are several events coming up in September that would certainly be of interest. We did not set any specific dates for these...enjoy them on your own!

ELEMENTS OF BEING

At the Guild of Creative Art, 620 Broad Street, Shrewsbury. An Exhibition by three

very talented artists, Debra Kurtz, Randy Mayer and Lori Weisenfeld, PSA. Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Admission is free. From August 29-September 29, 2026

SEPTEMBER 9:

AI Program with Anthony Russo, 12-2 p.m., at the Middletown Public Library, 55 New Monmouth Road, Middletown, NJ.

SEPTEMBER 10:

A Painter's Fire, 6:30-9 p.m., Monmouth Boat Club, "A Forgotten History of the Artists that Championed the American Revolution," with Zara Anishanslin. Register: navesinkmaritime.org

FEAST

Showcases work by 45 Monmouth Arts members (including our own **Marilyn Baldi** and **Barbara Withers**) at the Oyster Point Hotel in Red Bank. The Opening Reception is on Friday, September 11, from 6-8 p.m. There will be refreshments, live music, and an opportunity to meet the artists. The exhibition will run through November 6.

Also, mark your calendars for FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16. Our own **Susan Rosenberg** will be leading an Architecture History Tour of Asbury Park. Time and place TBA

and there's more...

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 we plan to go to the Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music in Long Branch...also time TBA.

We will keep you posted as the months go by, but it looks like a great fall/winter/spring for our Art Study Group.

If you have 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.

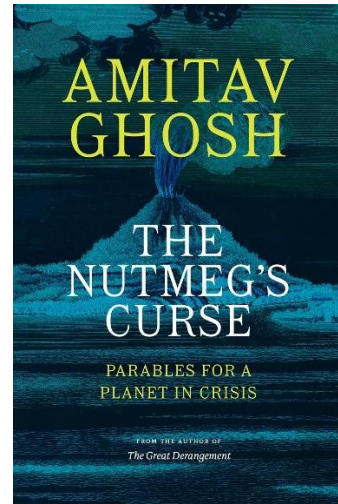
Chair: Jeannine Maloney

Insights Into Our Times

Our non-fiction book group met at the home of Mary Lea Burden on September 8, to discuss *Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know* by Malcolm Gladwell.

The October 13th meeting at 2 p.m. will be held at the home of Judy Kramer to discuss *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis* by Amitav Ghosh. Please RSVP to let Judy know if you plan to attend.

The *Insights* book group meets for discussion on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June.



New Members are always welcome. Contact chair, Kathy Olsen, for more information.

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

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*NetWorks* is published by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. The **copy deadline** for the October issue of *NetWorks* is Wednesday, **September 23, 2026**. Send info to Karen Topham.

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 September *NetWorks*.

## Book Sale Re-Opening Saturday, September 12

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

Please spread the word! We need more customers! Book sale posters will be available at the Book Sale for posting at your local library, club house, etc. If you would like some posters mailed to you, just let Irene Gibson know.

Check our website for donation policies.  
Donations are accepted when we are open on Thursdays and Saturdays.

All profits from the Book Sale help provide scholarships for local women and girls.

Also, we have wooden bookcases available, free for the taking. They are NOT freestanding so need to be leaned on something or nailed to the wall.

Dimensions:

5 1/2" deep  
32" wide  
72" high

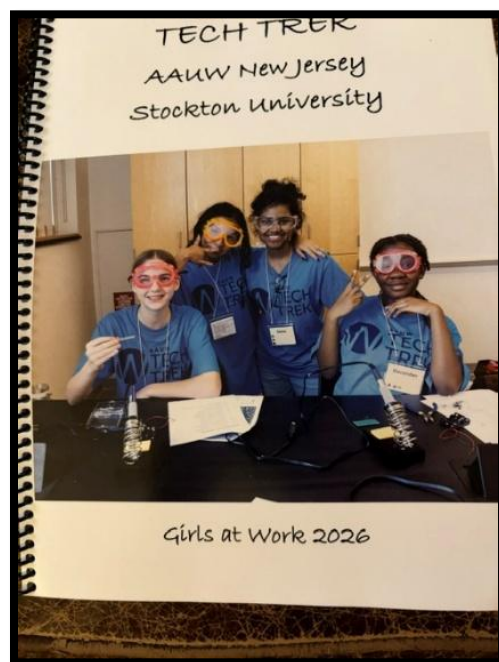


## UPDATE ON TECHTREK

Submitted by Annette Benanti

TechTrek enrolled 48 rising 8th graders for a week this July and three were admitted from our Monmouth County branch: Isabella, Marilyn, and Empress.

Our NMCB branch again donated a 50+ page journal for each student to record memories, experiences, and friends. Here is the cover :



**Advance Notice Interbranch Meeting**  
**March 16, 2027**  
**4:00-6:00 p.m.**

**Hi Friends,**  
**Northern Ocean County AAUW has arranged an insightful program on Tuesday, March 16, 2027, for our Interbranch meeting. The program will include a presentation by an accomplished local author, Toni De Palma, who is an NOCB AAUW member. The focus of her presentation will be her creative journey and the backstory for how she chose to write her debut adult novel, "Butterfly Summer." This Interbranch meeting will take place at Brandywine The Gables 515 Jack Martin Blvd Brick, NJ 08724. Brandywine is being very gracious and welcoming our branches to their beautiful residential living facility. This Interbranch meeting will include a light early dinner for members of Northern Ocean, Northern Monmouth, and Freehold AAUW. More information will follow closer to the date of our next Interbranch in March. I will take the lead on behalf of our Northern Ocean County AAUW Branch. Please contact me if you have additional Questions.**

**Pat**

**BOSCOV'S SHOPPING PASSES  
ARE BACK!**

The passes (which are still only \$5.00) will be available at the Book Sale, Branch meetings, or by contacting Ruth Hodum. She will mail you the requested amount.

This is an easy and stress-free Branch fundraiser. The \$5.00 cost of the pass is pure profit for the Branch.



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**NMCB DIRECTORS SWORN IN  
AT JUNE 1, 2026  
BRANCH MEETING**



From left to right: Administering the oath, Co-president Peggy James; Karen Topham, Theresa Blackburn, Ellen Jackson, Nancy Butler, Annette Benanti, Lynda Griffith, Connie Goddard, Mary Lea Burden

T. Thomas Fortune who would be 170 years old on October 3, 2026 was a stalwart for social justice. We're honoring his life and continuing his fight for equality and humanity with a community fundraising event...

# *We the People* **WALK FOR DEMOCRACY**



Sunday, September 27, 2026  
3-5PM



Starting Point: Riverside Gardens to  
the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center

Light refreshments and music to follow the event



For more  
information  
and to register  
please log on  
and  
participate.





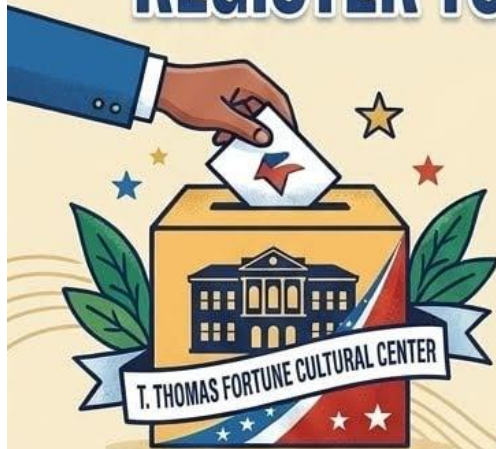
**REGISTER TO VOTE HERE, NEW JERSEY!**

**VOTE: NOVEMBER 3, 2026**



# WALK FOR DEMOCRACY!

## REGISTER TO VOTE SEPTEMBER 27



### WHO CAN REGISTER?

- ✓ U.S. CITIZEN
- ✓ NEW JERSEY RESIDENT
- ✓ 18 YEARS OR OLDER by Nov 3, 2026

### 3 EASY WAYS TO REGISTER



**ONLINE:**  
FAST & SECURE

[VOTER.NJ.GOV](https://voter.nj.gov)



**APPLICATION FORM**  
DOWNLOAD & POSTMARK



**IN PERSON:**  
COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE

### KEY DEADLINES & EVENT DETAILS:



**VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE**  
October 13, 2026



**WALK & REGISTRATION EVENT**  
September 27  
T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center



**MAIL-IN BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE**  
October 27, 2026

**ELECTION DAY**  
November 3, 2026







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](http://www.aauw.org). At the bottom of  
the home page, sign up for news and  
updates with your email address and  
zip code.

## Stay Connected!

AAUW [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

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

AAUW-NMCB [www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org](http://www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org)

Branch phone 732-275-2237

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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