

AAUW - NMCB November Branch Meeting

Monday, November 6, 2023
7:00 pm

All Hands on Deck!

Equality Under the Law is Within Our Grasp

Shrewsbury Historical Society
419 Sycamore Ave.
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

Laura Bagwell, our own Branch member, will provide a brief history of the Equal Rights Amendment, an update on the multi-pronged strategy to put the ERA into the US Constitution at this crucial time in American history, and, most importantly, what you can do to get it done.

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, *AAUW advocates the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment* as one of the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25.

[AAUW Quick Facts: Equal Rights Amendment](#)



Presidents' Message

Dear Members and Visitors to our website, This has been a challenging fall for many reasons--some are personal and others are because of the pain and suffering we see in the US and around the world. If someone you love or care about has been harmed or is in pain, we want to acknowledge that reality and invite you to share your thoughts about what is happening in your life and in the larger world with the rest of us in future editions of *NetWorks*. Perhaps what you share will help the rest of us consider how we might make a positive difference.

Today we want to remember a woman who made a real difference, while confined to a wheelchair for all the time she was a member of this branch of AAUW. **Annabelle Boehm** was the mother of two sons and an educator for many years. After she retired and joined NMCB, she looked for a way that she could make a contribution to the branch even though wheelchair-bound. She valued books and learning and thought that she might be able to do something for the book sale. After learning more about it, Annabelle volunteered to take on the job of getting volunteers to staff the Saturday hours when the sale was open. Although she was never able to come to the book sale, she realized this was a job she could do at home on her computer and she did a superb job for a number of years including through the entire Pandemic. Annabelle not only staffed the book sale, she looked for ways to encourage potential customers to attend it by posting notices on local Patches and looking for other ways to get the word out.

Annabelle died suddenly this summer and when I went to tell her sons what a difference Annabelle had made in managing a portion of the book sale, they each told me how much her volunteer work for the book sale had meant to her. Her young granddaughters also relayed her love of the book sale. I shared earlier this year a favorite saying of mine, "Bloom where you are planted," and I think Annabelle epitomized that idea. She did not let the challenges of her situation keep her from finding a way that she could make a difference for others. I'm grateful for her life and contributions and for so many of you who as members of AAUW are also finding ways to support young women and girls.

On behalf of Heather Balczarek and myself, best wishes to each of you for a good Thanksgiving. We are grateful for each one of you.
Marian

Marian Wattenbarger

Heather Balczarek

Quick Quiz:

Who are these two young women with Connie Goddard (r), our NMCB Director of Education Outreach? See page 6 to find out.



Book Sale Book Sale Book Sale

Our AAUW Used Book Sale got a "shot in the arm" from two new student members, **Sophia Arena** and **Brianna Dudley** who have been spending two or more hours there every Saturday in October. We're also very grateful for those of you who volunteer your time to help out at the book sale. It's really quite fun, and a good way to meet other AAUW members! We would also appreciate your spreading the word about the Book Sale in any groups you attend. The proceeds from the Book Sale help to provide scholarships for local women at Brookdale Community College and Monmouth University. If you can't volunteer right now, come in to shop. We have great books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, puzzles and games. Some great ideas for holiday gifts!

New times: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.;
Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. - Noon.
Where: Old First Church, 69 Kings Highway, Middletown; lower level.



Membership Matters

Membership Report

Membership is Everyone's Responsibility

We plan to publish another yearbook shortly, so **please pay your dues** if you wish to be included.

New Members:
Sharon Nixon

Annette Benanti

New address:

Janet M. Richter

Membership Co-directors:

Mary Lea Burden

Judy Kramer

designed eye-catching creatures and objects that are displayed at festivals, local art galleries, and environmental events.

Lisa will help us create a small (or large) assemblage of our own to display, share or take home as we reflect on the “reduce, re-use, recycle” plan.

Barbara Withers
Program Coordinator

**Upcoming Branch Meeting
Save the Date**

**December Branch Meeting
Monday, December 4
3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

Shrewsbury Historical Society
419 Sycamore Ave.
Shrewsbury, NJ

***Come See How Art
Can Amaze and Inspire!***

“reduce, re-use, recycle”

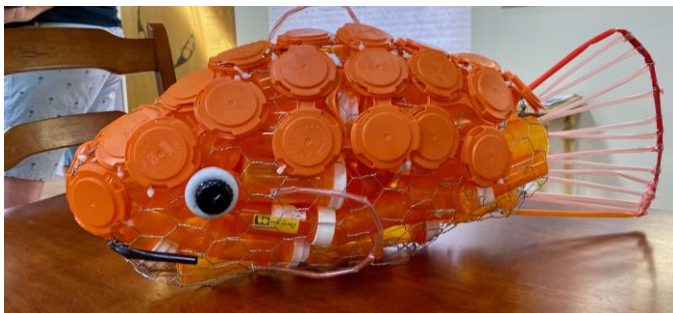


Photo: Barbara Withers

“Goldfish” by Lisa Bagwell.

What will you do with your prescription bottles?

Assemblage Artist Lisa Bagwell has been creating art from garbage for over 20 years.

Using collected materials from beach clean-ups and friends’ households, she has

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**Study, Action, Interest Groups**

**Study Group News**

**Art History**

We realize that this time of year is very busy for our members so we have decided to plan closer to home. Please find the information for December’s branch meeting on this page and join us there for a fun way to create our own art.

Anyone interested in joining our study group should contact one of the chairs. We always welcome new members.

Contact the Chairs:

Joan Fruchter

Barbara Iwanski

Barbara Withers

**French Conversation**

Our group enables women with a good knowledge of French to maintain their fluency through language structure reviews and conversations with other members on different topics.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact the chair for further information.

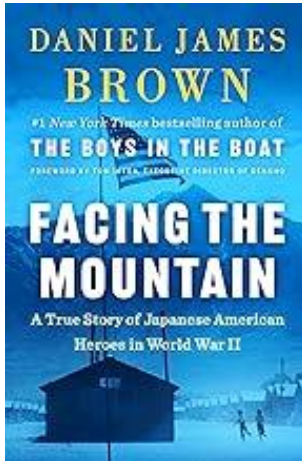
Chair: Jeannine Maloney

## Insights into Our Times

Insights will meet on Tuesday, November 14, at 7:30 pm via Zoom to discuss *Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II*, by Daniel James Brown.

Contact chair, Kathy Olsen, for more information.

New members are welcome.



## Russian Short Stories

The Russian Literature Group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., via Zoom. This year we will be reading the short stories of Leo Tolstoy, one of the greatest writers of all time. Please contact me if you are interested.

Contact Study Group Chair: Stephanie Rose

including what many refer to as the growing culture wars, has shifted focus to the state legislative arena all around the country.

With recent Supreme Court decisions, states are taking on issues that were once considered under federal purview. From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care to access to education, there is so much at stake every time women head to the polls.

Policy makers in our state government are now routinely making decisions about issues that directly affect us and our families. And often, those conversations lack women's voices. As we enter this season of political punditry and campaign promises, it is of utmost importance that we identify those who will best represent our values and those who seek to roll back our hard-won rights.

## It's as simple as this: When women vote, we win.

This Voter Guide provides nonpartisan information about policy concerns that are critical to women and their families. Find your current legislators, their voting records on our public policy priorities, and other useful resources at: [www.aauwnj.org](http://www.aauwnj.org) or at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1djNcYNyY15YCrWXVYRT-4EKL2wMF2Ts0/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1djNcYNyY15YCrWXVYRT-4EKL2wMF2Ts0/view?usp=drive_link)

Nancy Butler, Public Policy Director

## PUBLIC POLICY



## Voter Guide 2023

New Jersey will elect 120 state legislators (80 Assembly seats and 40 Senate seats) on November 7. The current political environment,

## Fun Fact

At our **October Branch Meeting**, we learned about how AAUW supports higher education opportunities for women including fellowships and grants for graduate education. The following is excerpted from a recent AAUW news release:

The fellowships and grants program is a cornerstone of AAUW's commitment to easing the growing burden of student debt, which

disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color.

The American Association for University Women (AAUW) today announced it has awarded a **record \$6.3 million to women scholars and community organizations**. The awards were given to 285 fellows and grantees to advance educational and professional opportunities for women and girls. *“We refuse to let women’s access to higher education be undone by the Supreme Court,” said AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell.* View the [complete list of 2023-24 awardees](#) at AAUW.org.

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## Annual Scholarship Program Gets an A

It was October, so our Northern Monmouth Branch had our various education outreach projects in mind, and this year our program included reports on the scholarships we sponsor, the reasons for them, and comments by three young women who have received them.

The program, held Monday afternoon October 2, at Brookdale College, was designed to address. Participating were our Brookdale liaison faculty members **Roseanne Alvarez** (who coordinated our Zoom connection for participants who could not be there in person) and **Sue Monroe**, along with the college’s associate director of financial aid, Karyn Arnold.

As Sue also serves on AAUW’s national committee that awards scholarships to graduate students, some of her comments were particularly pertinent. Among them was that fear of taking on debt is one of the major reasons otherwise qualified students do not pursue higher education.



Sue Monroe explaining AAUW scholarship awards.

Following Monroe’s talk, Arnold discussed some of the student assistance programs available at Brookdale, several of which are offered by the state of New Jersey.



Karyn Arnold on BCC student assistance programs

Then, branch member **Kathy Olsen** talked about funding these through our Book Sale and spring luncheon.



Kathy Olsen on branch funding for scholarships

A highlight of the program was brief comments from three students who have received some of the scholarships our branch

awards. Nidia Jiménez-Barrios, is a Brookdale graduate now completing her bachelor's degree through the college's joint program with Georgian Court University. She told us about the benefits of participating in NCCWSL (AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), which she did this past summer.



Nidia Jiménez-Barrios

Two of this year's scholarship winners, for the Esther Hymer award which is given to students at Monmouth University, were also able to attend: Taïphane Orange and Nicole Silva are both seniors majoring in political science and global affairs; they intend to begin graduate studies after gaining some work experience and garnering funds to further their education.



Taïphane Orange and Nicole Silva

Esther Hymer, the distinguished member of our branch in whose honor this scholarship is named, was for decades a forceful advocate for women at the United Nations. These young women, all from immigrant families, represent the growing diversity of Monmouth County and thus further Hymer's efforts to foster the careers of women and advance well-being around the world.

Connie Goddard  
 Director, Education Outreach  
 (Photos for the above article by Karen Topham)

*NetWorks* is published by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Please submit copy to Karen Topham, Editor

Due dates for *NetWorks* copy for Volume 68 are as follows:  
 Wednesday 29 November for December 2023/January 2024  
 Tuesday 30 January for February/March 2024  
 Monday 25 March for April 2024  
 Tuesday 23 April for May 2024  
 Tuesday 28 May for June 2024

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*.





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.

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## 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

**Donations:** Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.;  
Thursdays 10 a.m. to Noon

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/)

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

Branch phone 732-275-2237



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