

SAVE THE DATE!
Branch Program
Monday, December 4, 2024
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Shrewsbury Historical Society
“Celebrating the Arts”


The focus of our December meeting will be on diverse New Jersey artists and their stories using video clips from NJ PBS “State of the Arts” program.

Bring something sweet or savory from your family heritage or a special travel experience to share. Tell us a brief story about why it is significant to you. Write your comments so our many stories can be shared in the December/January issue of *NetWorks*.

Barbara Withers
Program Director


Presidents’ Message

Dear members and friends,
I (Marian) am a lifelong baseball fan, although currently not a very happy one as my favorite team struggles to win even one game in the 2024 World Series. I did take pleasure in their rise to American League Champs and remind myself that no team always wins. I also reflect on the fact that the games we love, whether we play them or watch them as fans, often reflect the ups and downs of life captured in a few hours. That is an important reminder for me as we pass through the current election season



BRANCH MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Our Guest Speaker



“Building Resiliency for Today and Tomorrow’s Challenges”

Diane Lang
nationally recognized speaker, educator, and certified positive psychology coach

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
Please bring a friend and join us to learn ways to build a resiliency plan during a crisis.

Shrewsbury Municipal Center
Shrewsbury Historical Society
419 Sycamore Ave. Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
Free Parking

that is a source of great concern for most Americans regardless of their political affiliation.

To help us as we face challenging moments in our lives (and not just elections) **Barbara Withers** has arranged for a presentation "Building Resiliency for Today and Tomorrow's Challenges" by Diane Lang, for our November 4 branch meeting. Diane is a noted educator and speaker and we hope many of you will join us at the Shrewsbury Historical Society for this timely presentation. We also hope you will invite a friend or new acquaintance to join you for this special presentation and the pleasure of being together to learn, to laugh, and to share in a few hours with one another.

In December, please come to our winter program on celebrating arts in NJ. We invite you to bring a special family dish or story to share. December's program is always uplifting and fun!

We also want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

An interesting fact to take to your family and friends this November:

Around 50 million pumpkin pies are eaten on Thanksgiving, pecan is the second most popular Thanksgiving pie, with apple pie coming in third.

-Marian and Heather

Marian Wattenbarger

Heather Balczarek



Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain.

~ Vivian Greene

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility

New Members:

Elisabeth Eittreim

U. VA, Quinnipiac, Columbia

Rutgers U.

BCC Professor

Women's Rights & Women's History

Katherine Gledhill

Mairene Cisneros - BCC E-Student Member

New Email:

Jane Foss

In Memoriam:

Ana Rosa (Anita) Damien



Ana Rosa Damien (Anita) peacefully passed away in her sleep on October 7, at the age of 95, surrounded by those she loved. She was a long-time member of the branch and the Advanced Spanish Study Group.

Born in Palma Soriano, Cuba, Anita was the daughter of Lebanese immigrants. She grew up in pre-revolutionary Cuba and was always motivated to be the leader of any group in which she participated. She attended and graduated from law school at the University of

Havana concurrently with a more infamous Cuban, Fidel Castro. She had children after graduation and postponed legal practice to raise her four children. Any consideration of returning to law was doused by the Cuban Revolution.

In 1962 her family had obtained permits to depart Cuba. Unfortunately, her husband physician Natalio was detained at the airport and unable to leave Cuba. Anita and her four children boarded a plane to Miami. She survived this experience, as a single mom with four children in a Miami refugee apartment, with the help of Americans and fellow residents. Her husband eventually escaped to begin his medical career in the US.

Anita's youngest sister Adela was living in NJ, and this is where she led her husband to continue his medical career and her family. They settled in Little Silver in 1969 and made it their permanent home.

Anita never became despondent despite many challenges in her life. She always just solved the problem and moved on. This was reflected in her ability to sacrifice her life in Cuba as Communism engulfed the island. She was ready to begin a new life with no belongings nor resources. She provided fortitude to her husband who became a successful and loved physician in Red Bank, to her children, and to her extended family. Anita was filled with energy and passion for life. She will be missed.

Joan Silbiger



Joan P. Silbiger, 85, of Freehold Township passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 2. Joan received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Douglas College - Rutgers University. She was retired from working as a social worker for the Social Security Administration. She was a long-standing member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft. Joan was a branch member from 2007 through 2015.

Joan traveled the world and relished new experiences. She had a great love of the arts, music and literature. She enjoyed classic and contemporary movies. Her joys included entertaining family and friends, being with people, and being near the ocean, listening to the waves upon the sand and the sea breeze blowing in her face. She was a loving mother, a true and loyal friend. She was a many faceted, complex, compassionate woman who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Joan was predeceased by her husband, Herman Silbiger. She is survived by her children and grandchildren.

Co-Membership Directors:
Mary Lea Burden
Judy Kramer

The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it.

~ Amanda Gorman

SAVE THE DATE

MEET AND MINGLE FOR NEW
MEMBERS, FRIENDS OF AAUW,
BOARD MEMBERS

SUNDAY JANUARY 12, 2025 3 PM

SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(IN THE SHREWSBURY MUNICIPAL
COMPLEX)

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES

Thanks to all who volunteered for and attended the “It’s My Vote!” programs at Brookdale Community College in October, especially NMCB Program Director **Barbara Withers**; Prof. **Roseanne Alvarez**, AAUW college/university rep at Brookdale and WILL (Women in Learning and Leadership) program coordinator, and her WILL student members; and Evelyn Murphy, PhD, president of League of Women Voters of Monmouth County and the main presenter.

AAUW’s **Women’s Economic Empowerment Initiative** webinars have been empowering women with skills for financial independence during October and will continue through December. The next topics and dates are:
November 5, 2-3 p.m. AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid
November 13, 2-3 p.m. AAUW Start Smart
November 21, 3-4 p.m. AAUW Money Smart: Smart Future
December 3, 3-4 p.m. AAUW Work Smart: Refresher
[Register and find more information here.](#)

Applications for Fellowships and Grants for the 2025-26 academic year are open **through 11/15**. Follow in the footsteps of award-winning authors, scientists, scholars, changemakers, and community leaders. AAUW provided more than \$6 million in funding to 285 fellows and grantees in the 2023-24 award year. These exceptional recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls. [Find information here.](#) **Please share with your networks.**

Post-Election Webinar

November 19, 3 p.m.

[Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women’s Economic Security](#)

A crucial post-election webinar exploring the path forward for women’s economic security in the 119th Congress and beyond. Click on the title to register.

AAUW Statement Honoring the Legacy of Lilly Ledbetter

“Ms. Ledbetter and AAUW had a long-lasting, strong, and productive relationship, and we held her in high esteem as an unwavering icon and trailblazer in the fight for equal pay. Together, Ms. Ledbetter, AAUW, and countless other organizations advocating for equal pay participated in marches, wrote letters, and sent emails which motivated Congress to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009. Today, we continue her legacy by championing equal pay legislation such as the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would give workers new tools for ensuring that employers pay women and men equally for equal work.” [Find more information here.](#)

Nancy Butler, NMCB Public Policy Director

Book Sale Book Sale Book Sale



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

Our AAUW Used Book Sale is in full swing, with specials every month. We have a wonderful group of volunteers. 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. We need more customers! We're open Thursdays from 10:00 - 12:00 and Saturdays from 10:00 - 2:00 for sales and book donations, except for holidays.

Please keep us in mind if you, or someone you know, is downsizing and needs to find a home for books. Our donation policy is on our web page. Just remember that if you wouldn't buy it, we can't sell it.

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 regionally accredited college or university.

To learn more about the AAUW and the book donation policy, visit aauw-nj-nmcb.org or call 732-275-2237.

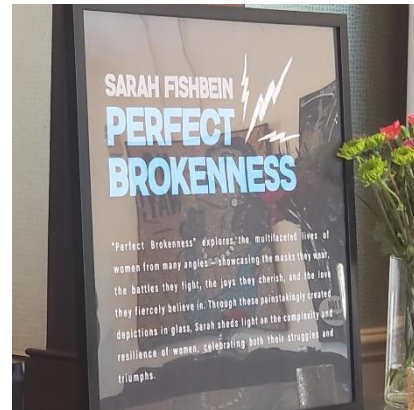
~

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

In October five of us enjoyed a conversation with Sarah Fishbein, a local New Jersey artist, at Monmouth Arts new gallery, *ArtSpace*, 99 Monmouth St.



The role of women and their inherent power is a constant question for Sarah Fishbein. How do women break through the layers of repression and perceived powerlessness? Sarah's goal is to awaken women to the man-made cages that confine them and to explore the hidden strength that all women carry within. The "Perfect Brokenness" exhibit explores the multifaceted lives of women from many angles — showcasing the masks they wear, the battles they fight, the joys they cherish, and the love they fiercely believe in.

Through these painstakingly created depictions in glass, Sarah sheds light on the complexity and resilience of women, celebrating both their struggles and triumphs. After a lively discussion, we went to lunch at *Teak* on Monmouth Street.

Upcoming

Thursday, November 7 - 11:30 a.m.

Black Glass Gallery "New Jersey in Focus"

Middletown Arts Center [by the Middletown train station]

A dynamic social media-based photography community founded in New Jersey.

This exhibit shines a light on what NJ has to offer – from serene beaches to parks, and gardens. Each photograph offers a glimpse into the unique charm that makes New Jersey captivating.

We have a reservation for lunch at 1:00 p.m. at *No Limits Cafe* on Rt. 35. Please RSVP to Joan or Barbara.

Saturday, November 30
Noon - Lunch at *SeaGrass* in Ocean Grove
After lunch, do your holiday shopping at the Art Market.

Holiday Art Market. [hours 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.]
Jersey Shore Arts Center
66 S. Main Street, Ocean Grove

More than 30 local artists and crafters | Open Artists' studios | Holiday music | Food and beverages | Admission is Free; \$5 suggested donation

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

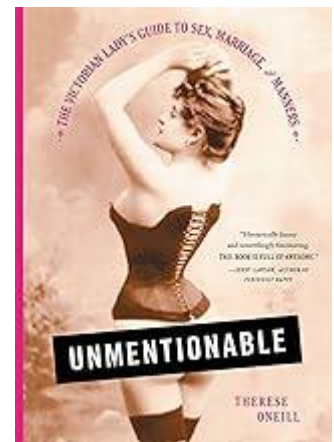
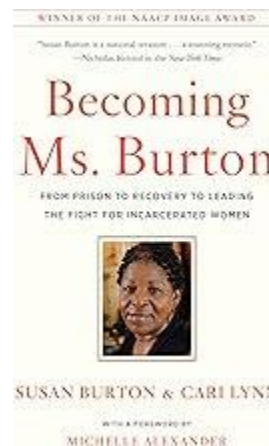
Insights, our non-fiction book group meets for discussion on the second Tuesday of each month.

We will meet on Tuesday, November 12, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the home of Mary Lea Burden, to discuss *Becoming Mrs. Burton: From Prison to Recovery and Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women* by Susan Burton and Cari Lynn.

The choice for December 10 is *Unmentionable: The Victorian Lady's Guide to Sex, Marriage and Manners* by Therese Oneill.

Please contact Mary Lea if you plan to attend the November meeting.

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

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.

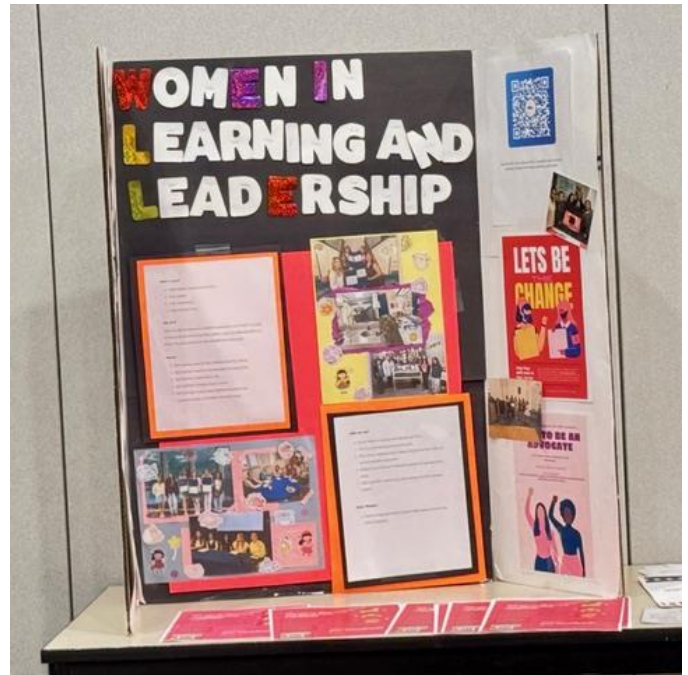
Members' News & Notes

Marilyn Baldi's photograph "Mindful Bodhisattva" will be part of the *Monmouth Arts "Terra Incognita" Charles Sills Memorial Exhibit* at Oyster Point Hotel, Red Bank, from October 31, 2024, through December 2, 2024. The opening reception is Friday, November 1, 2024, from 6-8PM.

Also, Marilyn's "Love Asbury" will be exhibited at *Studio Montclair's* photography show "Dwelling in Hope" November 1 - opening and reception (6-8) thru December 14, 2024.

Congratulations to **Connie Goddard** on the publication of her book, *Learning for Work; How Industrial Education Fostered Democratic Opportunity*, published by University of Illinois Press.

AAUW Branch Meeting Oct 4. "It's My Vote"



WILL Poster Displayed at the Meeting
WILL is an academic leadership program that provides participants with curricular and co-curricular experiences designed to develop a student's leadership skills during their undergraduate collegiate experience at Brookdale. The faculty advisor is Roseanne Alvarez who is a member of our NMCB.



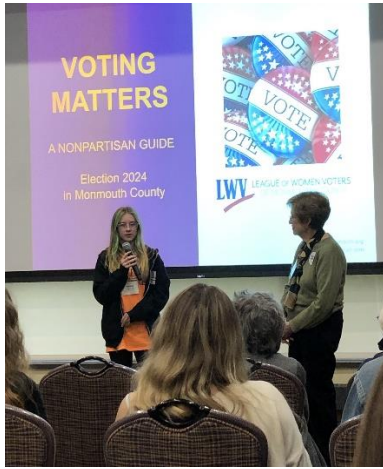
WILL students share why voting is important to them
Maddie DaSilva (WILL VP), Anna Vazquez (WILL President), and Sophia Arena (Former WILL President; Co-chair of the WILL Alumni Advisory Council)



Evelyn Murphy presents "Voting Matters: A Nonpartisan Guide to the Election 2024."



**Laura Bagwell and Mary Lea Burden ask:
ERA Have you signed the petition?
sign4ERA.org**



Nancy Butler and Tech Trek student

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 December/January *NetWorks* copy is Wednesday, November 20.

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*.

Scholarship Luncheon

Save the Date

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

NMCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 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.

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 .AAUWNJ.org

Branch phone 732-275-2237



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