

Presidents' Message

Dear Friends,

We hope you will have a good Thanksgiving with family and friends. As winter comes and we think about the upcoming holiday season, we reflect on peace, the community of our friends and family, and the wider world we are all part of.

This year I (Heather) learned about the *Great Law of Peace* of the Haudenosaunee, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy, and the role of Clan Mothers within this government.

The Haudenosaunee is a confederacy of six nations: the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora. A central story to the Haudenosaunee is the story of the Peacemaker and the *Great Law of Peace*.

When the nations were at war with one another, a Peacemaker, sent by the Creator, wished to end the strife. The Peacemaker approached Hiawatha, who was mourning the deaths of his family at the hands of another violent chief. The Peacemaker convinced Hiawatha to work towards peace between the nations. Together they traveled from nation to nation to persuade each chief to join the alliance. With the persuasion of the Clan Mothers, each nation joined.

The Peacemaker planted a Great Tree of Peace under which the leaders of each nation sat and deliberated to create the Great Law of Peace and the Great Confederation. The Peacemaker took one arrow from each nation and showed that a single arrow can be snapped, but when the arrows are bundled together that bundle cannot be snapped.

American Association of University Women
Branch Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2024
3:30 pm



Festive Food and Art Celebration





Bring a dish from your family, or culture, or travels that holds special meaning, whether sweet, savory, or a bit of both!



And a brief story to share!



Enjoy video clips featuring New Jersey artists from diverse backgrounds.

Shrewsbury Historical Society
419 Sycamore Ave.
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

Don't miss this chance to celebrate food, culture, and art. Hope to see you there!



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Each nation in the Confederation is governed by its own council with the Chiefs chosen by the Clan Mothers. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy has an elected representative government that still follows the *Great Law of Peace*.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility

I was struck by the fact that The *Great Law of Peace* and the Haudenosaunee Council influenced and shaped American democracy. While writing the Articles of Confederation, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin visited with the chiefs to consult them.

Our yearbooks will be coming out soon!! Thanks to all the many helpers who have been working on the content.

In this time of extreme divisiveness, perhaps we can remember the wisdom of the Haudenosaunee and their understanding that communities, like a bundle of arrows, are stronger together than when they are separate and more likely to be broken.

We will again be doing a *Shape the Future* at our December 2 meeting. **New** members may join at ½ the price of National dues. The special rate is \$62 instead of the \$98.00 cost of Regular dues and includes National, State and Branch dues. Bring a friend.

From the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address:
We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring Teachers. Now our minds are one.

We look forward to seeing New and Prospective members in January at our Meet and Greet on Sunday, January 12, at 3 p.m., at the Shrewsbury Historical Society. Current members will also attend and speak about our branch mission and activities.

To learn more:
<https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/HaudenosauneeGuide.pdf>

New Members:
We welcome our first male member in many years to our branch!

<https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/who-we-are/>

Peter Bruguiera
Lycoming C.; Marygrove C. Retired teacher
Antiques, theater, movies

Marian and I hope you will join us at the December meeting where we will learn about the arts and artists in NJ. We will also have the opportunity to enjoy each other's company, to hear stories of travels and families, and to share favorite dishes brought by attendees. It's sure to be a good time.

New Phone number:
Regina Sieben

Take good care of yourself and those around you.
Happy Holidays!
Heather and Marian



In Memoriam:
Margaret Martin, known to her family and friends as Peggy, passed away on October 24, 2024. Born on May 14, 1947, on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, Peggy spent her childhood in Staten Island.

Peggy received a BS from Pratt Institute and continued her studies at Penn State University where she earned a graduate degree in dietetics. Peggy went on to become a registered dietitian. She lived and worked in Massachusetts for many years. After retiring, Peggy volunteered at the Peabody Essex Museum.

Marian Wattenbarger
Heather Balczarek



Peggy at the 2023 Scholarship Luncheon

After a long and fulfilling career, Peggy moved to New Jersey ten years ago to be closer to her family, where she played an active role in the lives of her beloved niece, nephew and great nephews.

In her new community, Margaret continued to give back, becoming a dedicated volunteer and member of the Monmouth County Historical Society and the Northern Monmouth County branch of AAUW. She was a joy to work with at the NMCB Scholarship Luncheons where she helped to sell raffle tickets for the gift baskets.

She had a talent for creating warm and welcoming spaces, whether hosting dinner parties for family and friends or decorating her home for the holidays. She also found joy in gardening, nurturing beauty in her surroundings as she did in all aspects of her life.

Peggy's kindness, generosity, and love for her family and friends will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Co-Membership Directors:
Mary Lea Burden
Judy Kramer

I am independent! I can live alone
and I love my work.
~ Mary Cassatt

Upcoming Programs 2025 (tentative plans)

February 3 (Monday)
Zoom
7:30 p.m.

March
Interbranch Meeting
Hosted by Northern Monmouth
County Branch
Theme: Women's History Month
Date and place TBD

Are you interested in program
planning? Contact me.
Barbara Withers
Program Director

A Triangle of Land To Be Shared In A New Way

We are pleased to let you know that Jack Ryan, an alumnus and current faculty member at Brookdale Community College (BCC), has invited this branch to be part of a current project he has underway. To tell Brookdale's story, Jack is creating a video that starts with *A Triangle of Land*, the book this branch researched and wrote for the college's tenth anniversary, and that was expanded for the college's 25th anniversary. Jack is currently interviewing branch members who worked on the original book and expects them to be included in the video to be completed within the next year. If you are reading this and were part of the large group of members who worked on *A Triangle of Land* in 1978/79, please let Marian know so she can put Jack in touch with you.

If you are unfamiliar with *A Triangle of Land*, it is available online through Brookdale Community College's website. The history starts with the native people who for generations inhabited the land where BCC now

stands, covers the arrival of early European settlers, and continues to the mid-twentieth century when a community college in Monmouth County became a reality in no small part due to the hard work and persistence of a group of members of the AAUW Northern Monmouth County Branch. We'll let you know when the video is complete and available.

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES

Message from AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell on November 18:

I write to you today with conviction and resolve, even though for the second time, our country has decided it wasn't ready to have a highly qualified woman hold our nation's highest office. I am grateful for everyone who stood up and used their voices for the rights of women and girls, and for the significant wins across states on key issues. To anyone feeling uncertainty about what lies ahead — know that you are not alone.

It is AAUW's commitment to gender equity that allows me to write to you today with this clear-eyed promise: We will persist.

AAUW has been preparing for this scenario, and we will share more as we prepare policy priorities for the 119th Congress. Here's the bottom line: Our strength comes from our collective voice, and together we will continue the work to support women's education and economic empowerment.

Thank you for standing with us.

If you missed the November 19 discussion "Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security," it was recorded and is available for you to watch at this link:

<https://youtu.be/ku1D3t6g1Lg>.

It's My Vote:

Those who attended the branch meeting on October 2 met the wonderful students of Brookdale's Project WILL (Women in Learning & Leadership) who joined us and the League of Women Voters of Monmouth County to cosponsor the excellent voter education program on their campus.

Eight days later, they again worked with us to get the word out on campus about the importance of registering and voting: "Protect your rights!" and "Your Vote Matters!"



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: 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

Come into our AAUW Used Book Sale to see what great gifts are there for holiday giving! Books, DVDs, CDs, Audiobooks, puzzles, games, Christmas cards and more.

Your support of the Book Sale helps provide scholarships for local women. Thank you!

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!

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



Members of the Art Study Group at the Black Glass Photography Exhibit in November – Photo: Barbara Withers

Saturday, November 30

Noon Lunch at *SeaGrass* in Ocean Grove
Please RSVP

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

Plans for 2025 Dates TBD

January: Art Film (Send us suggestions for a video ASAP and we'll send a list for your vote.)

February: Book Discussion

Send us book titles (can be fiction or nonfiction) ASAP. We'll send a list for your vote before December 20.

March: Sculpture exhibit at the Morris Museum, Morristown.

April: Morgan Library, NYC. Bella da Costa Greene: A Librarian's Legacy.

May: A garden tour.

Watch your email for details. Any questions or suggestions, 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

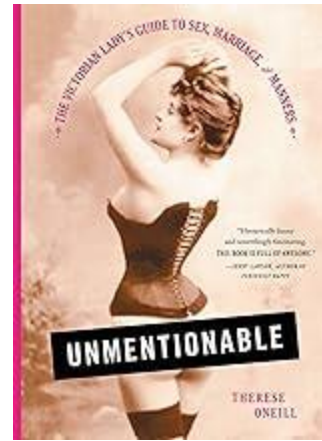
Insights, our non-fiction book group meets for discussion on the second Tuesday of each month.

The choice for December 10 is *Unmentionable: The Victorian Lady's Guide to Sex, Marriage and Manners* by Therese Oneill. It will be held at Ruth Hodum's home.

Please contact Ruth 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

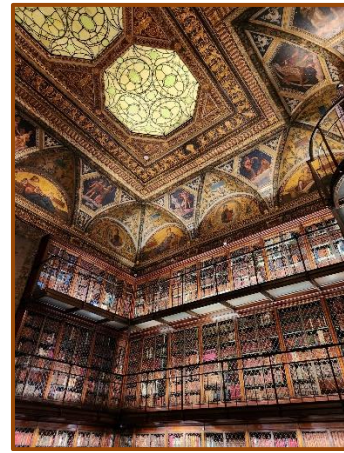
Currently, we have three study groups on hiatus: German Conversation, Literature, and Writing. If you have an interest in reactivating any of these or something new, please contact Susan Gelber.

AAUW-NJ Central Region Update by Patricia Baroska



A combined group of 13 AAUW Interbranch members from NOCB, FREEHOLD, and NMCB spent a wonderful day in NYC. Our first visit of the day was the New York City Public Library and the Lions of 5th Avenue. A docent-

led library tour was given to our group by the Director of Visitor Experience, Diogo Cardoso.



- Scholarship Luncheon
- Save the Date
- Wednesday, April 30, 2025

We had a gourmet lunch at the Morgan Café. Our second visit was to The Morgan Library and Museum. It was amazing to see this historical collection and rooms of American financier J. P. Morgan. The 100-year celebration of the Public Museum had a special exhibit of Morgan's phenomenal personal librarian and the library's first director Belle de Costa Greene.



Speaker Diane Lang at the November Branch meeting, giving pointers to members and guests for using positive psychology techniques to build resiliency.



If you did not receive a copy of Diane's PowerPoint presentation slides, please contact Heather Balczarek and she will forward them to you.

Thanks! From two of our BCC WILL students, Jocelyn & Mairene, who participated in our November branch meeting on Building Resiliency with Positive Psychology coach Diane Lang.



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 February 2025 *NetWorks* copy is Wednesday, January 15.

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*.

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)

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/

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Branch phone 732-275-2237



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