

Brookdale Scholarship Recognition

Michelle Stein and **Pat Miller** attended the Brookdale Scholarship Recognition Ceremony on March 5. NMCB has awarded four scholarships to Brookdale students for the 2019-2020 school year. The two annual scholarships were awarded in the fall and are as follows:

AAUW Audrie LaTowsky Scholarship:
Natalie Dunn

AAUW Louise Marsen Scholarship:
Kara Schechner-Kanofsky



Pat Miller, Natalie Dunn, Michelle Stein (l-r)

NMCB was also able to award two special scholarships for the spring term, thanks to the generosity of friends and family of Barbara Williamson and Susan Gelber. The gifts to the Barbara Williamson Scholarship were made as a memorial tribute of Barbara. The gifts to the Susan Gelber Scholarship were made in celebration of Susan's birthday. They are as follows:

AAUW Barbara Williamson Scholarship:
Vanessa Palmore

AAUW Susan Gelber Scholarship:
Rachael Siecinski



Michelle Stein, Vanessa Palmore, Pat Miller (l-r)

Michelle and Pat watched the ceremony, which included speaking the name of each of the almost 500 scholarships along with the awardee's name and a graduation-style procession across the stage to receive a certificate and have a picture taken with the college president, David Stout.

All of our scholarship recipients were in attendance at the ceremony except for Kara. We were able to speak to two of them

afterwards: Natalie and Vanessa. Rachael was featured in a short video talking about herself and the scholarships she had won.



Rachael Siecinski video

All the young women were charming, accomplished, and obviously ambitious. Rachael planned to attend Rutgers majoring in aerospace engineering. Vanessa had already gotten a degree in criminal justice, worked for Homeland Security, and was pursuing a second degree in psychology at Rutgers. Natalie planned to continue pursuing a career in health care. At least two of them also had children at home. They were uniformly complimentary of Brookdale, its nurturing environment, and the education they are receiving. We always find talking with recipients of our awards so inspiring.

2020 Scholarship Luncheon Canceled

By Marian Wattenbarger

The 2020 Scholarship Luncheon has been cancelled. After careful consideration the luncheon committee and the board agreed that the best decision was to cancel a luncheon in 2020 and plan for a joyful renewal of this special event in 2021. While a date in 2021 is not set yet, we expect that it will be next April and look forward to hearing from the same speaker, local author Francine Garson, and honoring the very special Women of Achievement who were selected this year. I have been privileged in the past few months to have contact with both of the awardees, Anna Diaz-White of 180 Turning Lives Around and Gwendolyn Love of Lunch

Break, and both have been gracious and supportive as the luncheon committee considered our options and made the decision to cancel the 2020 luncheon. Take good care of yourselves and we will look forward to being together at the 2021 Scholarship Luncheon.

Please note that everyone who had already paid to attend the 2020 luncheon before it was canceled will receive an email regarding that payment. Those payments can be returned or given as a donation to further the work of AAUW and this branch. Other donations are welcome since both the luncheon and the used book sale have been canceled or suspended for an indefinite time in light of the public health crisis facing this country.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a difference a month makes. What a difference from only a week ago! Schools, restaurants, gyms and other businesses are closed. Meetings, concerts and rehearsals are cancelled. We're seeing and speaking to our neighbors as we pass them while walking the neighborhood.

March 14 was the last sale day for the NMCB book sale. We don't know if or when it will open again before the end of June. We do have plans for it to resume in the fall, if not before.

Our most recent program was the March 1 Sunday afternoon Suffrage Centennial program at the Eastern Branch of the Monmouth County Library. This program celebrated the centennial of the 19th Amendment and featured the suffrage story told through the words of five women (and one man) who made it happen: Susan B. Anthony (played by **Marian Wattenbarger**), Frederick Douglass, Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul (played by **Connie Goddard**), Ida B. Wells (played by **Lorraine Stone**), and Fanny Lou Hamer (played by **Gilda Rogers**) and moderated by Peggy Dellinger. It

proved to be so popular that about 100 people crowded into the room, with many standing, and an unknown number were turned away. A second performance was scheduled for March 15 at the T. Thomas Fortune House, and that had to be cancelled.



The Suffrage Centennial Program Players
From l-r, Anthony Johnson, Anne Torre Beebe, Lorraine Stone, Marian Wattenbarger, Gilda Rogers, Peggy Dellenger (narrator), Connie Goddard

Since then, we have cancelled the Interbranch meeting on March 26. That program, “Narrowing the Gender Wage Gap” at Brookdale, will be rescheduled. We hope we can have the same panel, moderated by **Dr. Mary Gatta**, which was to include Dr. Nicola Blake, CUNY professor; Joann Downey, attorney and NJ State Assemblywoman; Janet Lee, LCSW, of 180 Turning Lives Around; Retha Onitiri, MS, of the NJ Institute for Social Justice; and Amy Quinn, attorney and deputy mayor of Asbury Park. The program presents the facts about the gap, its impact, possible solutions, and AAUW’s efforts to narrow it.

Also cancelled was the AAUW-NJ spring Annual Meeting on April 18 at The Rutgers Club in Piscataway, and most importantly, our 7th Annual Scholarship Luncheon, which was to have been April 30 at the Beacon Hill Country Club. We have decided to reschedule this in the spring of 2021 at the same venue. We will have the same author, Francine Garson, as well as our

2020-2021 Women of Achievement, Gwendolyn Love and Anna Diaz-White, and to honor the memory of Barbara Williamson.

Running and Winning, normally held in April, has been cancelled, as well. No decision has been made about NCCWSL in May or Tech Trek in July.

In the meantime, please, everyone stay safe, and try to reach out to others via phone, email, or other online vehicle. It will be important to keep in touch with our social circles and uphold everyone’s mental health in these trying times.

Pat Miller, President



Casting Call!

Have you ever been or envisioned yourself to be in the middle of the flow of critical information or an event planner extraordinaire? If so, you are just what the branch needs and the 2020 Nominating Committee is hoping you will self-select for a position on the board.

As *NetWorks* goes to press, the Committee is still looking for a Recording Secretary and a co-chair for the 2021 Scholarship Luncheon (Development). And although a board position used to mean a 10-month annual commitment to 2-hour-plus board meetings, that commitment is now much more fluid. Generally, board positions are for two-year terms. Traditionally, new officers step into their positions in the summer.

The basic job of the Recording Secretary is to take and distribute board meeting minutes. If there are two individuals who express interest, the responsibility can be shared and minutes handled by the two on a rotating basis. The Nominating Committee is more than happy to explore options.

As co-chair for the luncheon, given the great groundwork by the current co-chairs, **Arlene Thoma** and **Lauren Nicosia** (who will be staying on), as well as their veteran luncheon committee, you'll find most elements are already in place for it to be a rousing success. Your biggest responsibility will be to keep your hand on the helm and plans on course.

If either of these opportunities speaks to you or you would like more information, please reach out to Nominating Committee Chair **Vickie Snoy**.

Nominating Committee members: Annette Benanti, Annabelle Boehm, Susan Gelber, Barbara Iwanski



14th Annual Running & Winning Workshop Canceled

The 14th Annual Running & Winning Workshop, scheduled for April 23 at Monmouth Regional High School, has been canceled. There is no expectation that it can be rescheduled so the Steering Committee will begin planning in the fall for the next Running & Winning to take place in the spring of 2021. Among the schools scheduled to participate this year were Asbury Park High School, Communications High School, Henry Hudson High School, Keyport High School, Long Branch High School, Matawan Aberdeen Regional High School, Middletown North and South High Schools, Monmouth Regional High School, Ocean High School, Red Bank Regional High School, and Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School.

Running & Winning Workshop is a collaborative project of AAUW-NMCB, the Red Bank Area League of Women Voters, the Junior League of Monmouth County, and the Red Bank Chapter of Hadassah. The goal of the workshop is to increase the number of women running for public office by providing an opportunity for high school junior girls to meet Monmouth County women who have run and won (and may have

lost) elective office, and by helping the students develop their leadership skills now. The schools choose the student participants and they are encouraged to select students who show promise of leadership, not necessarily the ones who are current leaders although some of those also participate.

The day is organized as non-partisan and the Women in Government who participate represent both major parties, independents, and school board members who run in non-partisan elections. The students work in small groups led by trained facilitators from the sponsoring organizations. The small groups are made up of students from different high schools so the students have an opportunity to learn about other schools and the experiences of students that may be different from their own. Through the years, the workshop has received consistently high evaluations.

We are interested in recruiting some NMCB members who have not been involved in the past to join in being part of the 2020/21 Workshop. If you are interested, please contact either Ruth Hodum (rhodum@verizon.net) or Marian Wattenbarger (mcwattenbarger@comcast.net). Ruth has been a facilitator for many years and serves on the Steering Committee which Marian has co-chaired for the past ten years with Bobbie Goldstein of the League of Women Voters. [You can make a difference in a young woman's life by being part of Running & Winning.](#)

Study, Action, Interest Groups

Study Group News

Art History

Current plans have been placed on hold.

For more information, please contact the chairs.

Chairs: Susan Buccellato

Barbara Iwanski

We meet to study and discuss global art of all periods and genres through member presentations and visits to museums, galleries, and outdoor art exhibitions. New members are welcome!

French Conversation

Meets: 2nd and 4th Thursdays,
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Contact the chair for more information.
Chair: Jeannine Maloney

Our group enables women with a good knowledge of the French language to maintain their fluency through some language structure reviews and conversation with other members. (The group is made up of native-born speakers, those educated in France, French majors in an American university and those who have studied the language for several years.) Grammatical notes and practice sheets are e-mailed to the participants before each meeting and one half hour of the two hours is spent reviewing a grammatical point and listening to the paragraphs written by the participants.

Participants eat together and share their stories in French.

L'hôtesse sert un déjeuner à la française, pour mieux apprécier la vie culturelle du pays.

New members are always welcome.

German Conversation

Meets: Twice a month on Mondays,
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
at Red Bank Library
Chair: Aline Ashkin

We read *auf deutsch* and translate. Our goal is to improve our German language skills in reading and conversation. Our group is a mixture of English-speaking members with a background of college-level German and members who are native German speakers. New members are always welcome.

Insights

Meets: Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Annette Benanti.

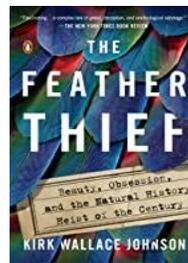
Topic: *The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century* by Kirk Wallace Johnson.

Given the current situation, we are **not likely to meet**.

Upcoming, again to be determined by the current situation, we are scheduled for May 12 at the Middletown Library:

Have Dog, Will Travel: A Poet's Journey by Stephen Kuusisto.

For further information, contact Chair: Kathy Olsen



This *nonfiction book group* focuses on current issues, with special attention to topics affecting women and books written by women. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month. New members and guests are very welcome!

Literature

The final three book selections for this year are as follows:

April 16: *Hester* by Margaret Oliphant.

May 21: *The Traitor and the Spy* by Ben MacIntyre.

June 18: *Overstory* by Richard Powers.

Please contact the chair for more information.

Chair: Regina Sieben

Contact chair for more information.

We select *literary fiction or an occasional memoir* to read during the year. A different member acts as leader each month and presents background and critical appraisal of the month's selection. We meet the third Thursday

of the month at 1 p.m. New members are most welcome!

Russian Short Stories

Meets: 3rd Thursday, Monmouth County Library, Eastern Branch, 2nd Floor, Services Office, 1 p.m.

Contact Study Group Chair: Stephanie Rose

Russia is a continental power of vast proportions, with distinctive traditions, character, national myths and forms of political organization. After a brief survey of Russian geography and culture, this study group will deal with nine short stories, and conclude by examining popular themes within Russian literature.

Presentations are in English. All materials for the study group are available through <https://www.gutenberg.org/>.

Writing

Please contact chair for meeting information.
Chair: Patricia Chapman

Members of this group are resolute in their belief in the power of the written word to inform, delight, amuse and transform the reader. With this aim, members present their writings from various genres - poetry, fiction, essays, memoir, non-fiction, opinion. The meetings begin with a timed journal exercise based on a prompt provided by a member. After sharing their responses, members take time out to enjoy light refreshments and conversation.



Thanks to Arbor Terrace for hosting our Board meetings.



Looking for Special Book Sale Volunteers

We on the book sale committee are hoping that things will return to normal soon and that we can reopen our NMCB book sale (now in its fifty-second year!). While we are waiting to get back to holding our weekly sales, we would welcome volunteers who are experienced in selling on Ebay, so that we can sell some interesting older books that we have accumulated. We also will really need members who can post weekly book sale news on their local sites, such as Patch.

Once we're back in business, we will need people to cover the monthly duties of the chair, since I will be stepping down on June 30. The chair's duties are:

- Open and close the book sale on Thursdays and Saturdays;
- Deposit the Saturday profits in the bank;
- Make sure the pouch with change is in place on Saturday;
- Oversee weekly book donations, to be sorted into three categories: to be shelved, to be recycled or to go on the free table;
- Contact the Boy Scouts and other non-branch volunteers who have expressed an interest in removing our recyclables;
- Add any new email addresses to the email list;
- Oversee monthly advertising, including in *NetWorks*;
- Check advertising on used book sale finder sites;
- Coordinate staffing with volunteer coordinator.

Any of these duties can be divided up among members. Two people can be chair for a month, or more, or maybe one person would take over one job, such as advertising or overseeing the sorting process. The book sale is near and dear to our hearts, and especially when there is the possibility of greater returns in the future (rent

has been reduced, advertising has been increased), we the committee would be delighted to see it go forward.

If you have any interest in volunteering for some or all of the Chair's job, or would like more information, please contact me (Mary Anne Anderl). Thank you all for the work you have dedicated to the book sale in past years and this year!



As you may know this was our last year to award the Ruth Kennedy Scholarship at Douglass College. The branch received this thank you note from our final recipient:

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to you and the Northern Monmouth County Branch AAUW for selecting me as the recipient of the Ruth Kennedy Scholarship.

I do live in Monmouth County, and Ocean Township to be more specific.

Natalia Castro

Photos from the March 1 Suffrage program

By Nancy Butler



NetWorks is published by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Items for the next issue are **due on Thursday, April 23**, to: Karen Topham, Editor kptopham@gmail.com

Send address changes, names of prospective members, membership applications and checks, and questions about non-receipt of the newsletter to: Barbara Withers 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 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*.





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

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

To volunteer: Annabelle Boehm 732-687-3880
aboehm@comcast.net

Have you been missing
AAUW's *Outlook* magazine that used to
arrive in the mail?

It's online at
<https://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/outlookmag/>

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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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Meeting cancellation information:

AAUW-NJ aauw-nj.aauw.net

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