



NetWorks

Monthly newsletter of the Northern Monmouth County (NJ) Branch, American Association of University Women
Volume 64, Number 8

May 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are all surviving this quarantine crisis with your mental health pretty much intact. We have found that having a personal Zoom account (which costs about the same as Netflix) has been a lifesaver for our household. We have been having video conferences with various groups of people (family, friends, and our various organizations) at the rate of more than once a week for the last month or so. Our NMCB Board has met twice on Zoom since the last in-person board meeting on March 9. The first time, on March 20, we met to discuss whether to cancel or reschedule the Scholarship Luncheon, which, of course, could not be held on April 30 of this year. The second Zoom meeting was our regular board meeting on April 13. These have been so successful that we are considering making some of our board meetings virtual ongoing, for the convenience of all.

We are happy to announce that our plans are now to hold the Scholarship Luncheon next spring with pretty much the same arrangements as we had this year. The author and Women of Achievement have confirmed that they are available to perform those roles in the 2021 Scholarship Luncheon. And **Arlene Thoma** has worked with Beacon Hill Country Club to confirm a new date. **Mark your calendars for April 29, 2021.**

As you know, the Book Sale has also been closed for the last month. We have plans to reopen it when it is safe to do so, and a committee of volunteers has been formed who have agreed that two of its members will take the lead for the Book Sale each month, after **Mary Anne Anderl's** term is over at the end of June. My personal prediction is that in New Jersey we won't be opening any places where groups of people congregate, such as schools and churches, before summer at the earliest. My hope is that the Book Sale can reopen in early September.

With the loss of our two biggest fundraisers, we had to decide how we can fulfill our commitments for the end of this year (June). Both National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) and AAUW-NJ's summer science camp for girls, Tech Trek, have been canceled this year, so we do not have that expense. We decided that it is imperative that we continue to award our scholarships and high school book awards, as well as fulfill our commitment to contribute to National AAUW. National's expenses for rent and salaries remain the same, although everyone is working remotely, and the work that they do for us and our issues is critical, especially in this election year. (AAUW has just released a brand new and much improved website:

<https://www.aauw.org/>. Try it out!) And I would predict that the income our college scholars get from us is also especially critical now for those

who have lost their jobs or are struggling on reduced wages. To make up for some of this loss of income to NMCB, we are appealing to members and friends to consider a special donation to the branch. More information can be found in an article elsewhere in this issue.

We thank the Nominating Committee – **Vickie Snoy** (chair), **Susan Gelber**, **Barbara Iwanski**, **Annette Benanti**, and **Annabelle Boehm**. They have submitted an outstanding slate of nominees for next year's officers, which you will find in a separate article. The Board unanimously approved the slate, and we hope you will agree also. We also thank the people who have agreed to serve.

Personally, I have been very busy during this time – with the many meetings I alluded to above, as well as providing two or three days per week of childcare and homeschooling for our grandsons. A weekend project was a video message for the Middletown Green Team for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22. The video is here: https://youtu.be/m6lad_mYVbl. I hope you enjoy it.

My closing message remains the same as last month: Please, everyone stay safe, and try to reach out to others via phone, email, or other online vehicles. It is important to keep in touch with our social circles and uphold everyone's mental health in these trying times.

Pat Miller, President



Membership Matters

Membership is Everyone's Responsibility

Membership Renewal Coming Soon!

Renewal forms will be mailed in mid-May. We are asking all members (including Life members) to complete the personal information on the dues form. It will help us keep our database accurate. Please complete the reverse side of the form to let us know in what ways you would like to participate in branch activities.

Remember if you can't volunteer, just continuing your membership is participating. You are supporting our branch programs and projects with your dues. And if you renew, you'll continue to get our newsletter, *NetWorks*, and thus be able to keep tabs on branch activities.

Dues may be paid by check or on our website [www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org] using your credit card with PayPal.

Please consider including a tax-deductible donation when you renew your membership with your dues check and renewal form next month.

The branch's portion of the dues (\$16) covers only some of our basic expenses. Your donation would allow us to provide stimulating monthly programs and continue our mission projects including **scholarships** (local and national), workshops for young women and girls such as **Running and Winning** (learning about running for office), **Start Smart** (negotiating salary) and **Tech Trek** (for 8th grade girls to learn about **STEM** careers).

Please help if you are able.

Thank you, Members!

Mary Lea Burden

Barbara Withers

Membership Co-directors



2020-2021 AAUW-NMCB Officers Slate

At the Zoom board of directors meeting on April 13, the following slate was approved:

Study Group: Marie Gambuzza will continue as Director

Educational Outreach: Connie Goddard will continue as Director

Membership: Mary Lea Burden will continue as Co-Director, partnering with nominee Deborah Blood

Development: A committee of volunteers will run the book sale, with two members taking the lead each month. Lauren Nicosia will continue as co-chair of the scholarship luncheon committee, partnering with nominee Vickie Snoy.

Recording Secretary: This position remains vacant. Self-nomination is welcome.

Members of this year's nominating committee are Annette Benanti, Annabelle Boehm, Susan Gelber, Barbara Iwanski and Vickie Snoy (chair).



Study, Action, Interest Groups

Study Group News

All study group meetings have been suspended until further notice.

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

On hiatus until the library has reopened.

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

Our April 14 meeting was canceled and I expect that our May 12 meeting scheduled for the Middletown library will also not take place. Our May selection was *Have Dog, Will Travel* by Stephen Kuusisto and Fred Sanders. Please continue to read non-fiction works, if possible. Hopefully we can hold our June 9th potluck to select titles for the fall meetings. 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!

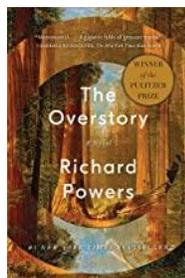
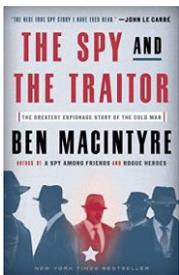
Literature

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

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.



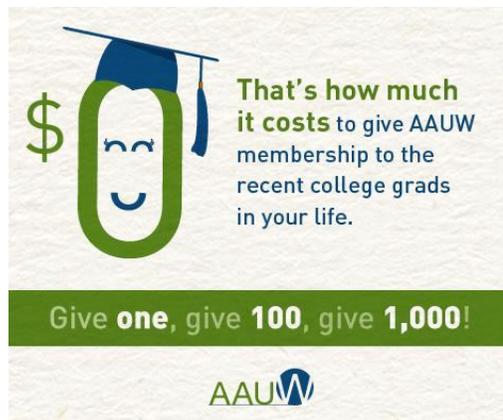
Thanks to Arbor Terrace for hosting our Board meetings.

Give a Grad a Gift!

The Perfect Graduation Gift: AAUW Membership

As an AAUW member you can gift one year of AAUW national membership to as many recent college graduates as you like **at no cost to them or you.** You'll need to know the mailing address, phone number, email, and alma mater of each of these future AAUW members.

Then complete the form online <https://ww2.aauw.org/grad-gift/> or email the information to Barbara Withers, who will complete the online form for you.



Honoring Our 2020 Women of Achievement

Although we will not be able to honor our 2020 Women of Achievement (WOA) in person at the end of this month because our annual scholarship luncheon has been canceled, we can honor them by supporting their organizations, both of which are doing life-saving work in the pandemic crisis.

You can donate online to both **180 Turning Lives Around** (180nj.org), headed by WOA **Anna Diaz-White**, and **Lunch Break** (lunchbreak.org), headed by WOA **Gwendolyn Love**. Both organizations have modified their services in the face of the pandemic but both continue to serve those in need day in and day out.

Lunch Break, located at 121 Drs. James Parker Boulevard in Red Bank, is accepting nonperishable and basic needs items. These donations are accepted at the back of the building. Those making donations are asked to stay in their cars; staffers will come to your car to collect the contributions. Drop-off hours are 10 AM to 2:45 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 10 AM to 5:45 PM on Wednesday; and 10AM to noon on Saturday.

Among the most urgently needed items:

- Instant oatmeal and other cereal
- Canned soup
- Canned green beans
- Canned tuna
- Peanut butter and jelly
- White pasta and pasta sauce
- Packaged bread
- Toiletries
- Paper products
- Baby items – diapers, wipes, food
- Women's hygiene products

NetWorks is published by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Items for the next issue are **due on Thursday, May 21**, to: Karen Topham, Editor

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*.

**AAUW Website:
www.aauw.org**

Please make sure to check out AAUW's new website with a new design and improved functionality.

AAUW's communications team has been working hard to develop an attractive, engaging online presence that showcases our mission, shares our history and member stories, and helps people find the information they need as quickly as possible.

Voting for national leaders is now open through May 18 on the [website](#).

Please Consider Donating to Our Scholarship Fund

Just like you, when we began planning for our Scholarship Luncheon, we could hardly have imagined or planned what was ahead.

Just like you, we had our calendar turned upside down. Our Scholarship Luncheon was going to be an opportunity to see you and connect with you, to introduce you to our "Women of Achievement," and to continue to help our scholarship recipients.

Our programs will continue – Tech Trek, the Book Sale, NCCWSL, the STEM Initiative to introduce girls to female role models, high school book awards, all the programs that make AAUW special, even though some of them are now in hiatus. We are still planning to award our 2020 scholarships to Brookdale and Monmouth U students, who certainly need them now more than ever.

With the cancellation of our Luncheon fundraiser, as well as suspension of the Book Sale, we are especially in need of resources to continue these programs. If you can find it in your heart to give a little extra to the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW, we will appreciate it.

You can either write a check payable to AAUW-NMCB and mail to AAUW, PO Box 398, Red Bank, NJ 07701, or go to our website <http://aauw-nj-nmcb.org/Donate.html> and donate by credit card or PayPal.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our organization!

In case you missed these messages from National AAUW's online newsletter *Mission & Action*, from April 23:

STANDING STRONG THROUGH CRISIS

During this challenging time, AAUW stands together as a caring and connected community. For nearly 140 years, we have been there for one another and fought for the economic security of American women and families. We invite you to access our COVID-19 [Connected Community Initiative](#) to:

- Read CEO Kim Churches' [full commentary](#) on the COVID-19 crisis.
- Watch a [video](#) from board chair Julia Brown and our [webinar](#) on how we're addressing the pandemic.
- Learn how your fellow branch and state leaders are staying connected.
- Take our [short survey](#) to share your own stories.

Our work together to achieve equity has never been more important. Women are particularly vulnerable to financial shocks, since they're paid less than men, shoulder a greater proportion of student debt, and have less saved for retirement. They also hold 54% of low-wage jobs, many of which have been eliminated or lack basic benefits. **We'll soon roll out a special match from AAUW's board of directors, national leaders, CEO Kim Churches and several AAUW staff to raise funds that will drive much-needed change**, including advancing policies to support paid sick leave and student-loan forgiveness.

A Special Conversation with Diane Rehm

On April 14, AAUW CEO Kim Churches held an exclusive interview with legendary NPR radio host Diane Rehm as part of AAUW's 2020 Vision convening series. Rehm spoke about remaining resilient in the face of challenges and shared insights from her most recent book, *When My Time Comes*, a thoughtful and compassionate exploration of the death with dignity movement.

Read an [article](#) about their conversation or listen to the [full interview](#).



Diane Rehm

On **April 30**, join in a [Member webinar](#): A Conversation with Marjorie Spruill, AAUW American Fellowship alumna, historian, and author of *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights & Family Values that Polarized American Politics*.

For more, head to the [newsletter's website](#).



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

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/>

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/

 Join AAUW-NMCB on Facebook!

Meeting cancellation information:

AAUW-NJ aauw-nj.aauw.net

Branch phone 732-275-2237

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

Listen to 94.3 FM or call 732-345-8094.