

10th Annual Scholarship Luncheon April 29, 2026, Noon Beacon Hill Country Club Atlantic Highlands, NJ

Our 10th Annual Scholarship Luncheon is promising to be another success. In case you missed last month's *NetWorks* with the flyer, please print the one in this issue and send in your reservation before the **firm deadline of April 11**. Our guest speaker from New Jersey is Diane Lang. She will share thoughts on being mindfully happy with tips for "Waking up to life."

Last month *NetWorks* featured Women of Achievement Lynn Hawkins and Quadhera Simmons from Pinwheel Place. You will not only see their pinwheels incorporated into our centerpieces, but you will learn about their important project helping families in need. **Judy Kramer**, who interviewed them, looks forward to their sharing their story at the luncheon.



Our other Woman of Achievement is Abby Daly of Bridge of Books. She recently stopped at our book sale to choose books for distribution to families of children from toddlers through young adults. Her project brings books into homes that might otherwise never have a children's bookshelf. **Amy DeSanctis** met with Abby and will share her findings in this issue. Abby is donating handmade ornaments that will be incorporated into our raffle baskets.

Fingers crossed for sunshine on the 29th. We look forward to seeing you then.

Presidents' Message

Dear Friends,

April is upon us! Spring is in the air--time to prune bushes and plants, start your gardens and enjoy the start of the baseball season! In April each year, we mark Earth Day on April 22. The theme this year from Earthday.org is "Our Power, Our Planet." As environmental regulations have been rolled back, Earthday.org challenges everyone to put pressure on government entities to protect our future. Quiet change is no longer a guarantee of progress.

The nearly forgotten Mother of Climate Science is Eunice Newton Foote. This distant cousin of the English scientist sir Isaac Newton was born in 1819. Her parents believed in a strong education for girls and gave her the best educational opportunity available at the time.

Eunice attended the Troy Female Seminary, a forward-thinking and progressive preparatory school established by feminist Emma Willard, and the Rensselaer School, now known as the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Schenectady, NY. Her education was unusual for the time in that it taught not only the traditional finishing school subjects of dance, French, Latin, and music but also geography, natural philosophy, mathematics and leaned heavily toward the sciences, including chemistry, astronomy, and meteorology. After graduation, Newton-Foote continued her scientific studies and experiments as an amateur scientist.

Newton-Foote demonstrated the warming effect of sunlight on carbon dioxide within a closed system--simulating the carbon dioxide within the atmosphere of our planet, also a closed system. Her experiment was simple but effective--she used glass cylinders filled with different gases that were equipped with thermometers to test the effect of sunlight on temperature. She found that the cylinder with carbon dioxide warmed considerably more and took longer to cool when removed from the sun than the regular air cylinder.

Concluding that carbon dioxide and water vapor trapped more heat, she wrote that “an atmosphere of that gas would give to our Earth a high temperature...and if as some suppose, at one period of its history the air had mixed with it a larger proportion than at present, an increased temperature...must have necessarily resulted.” With this statement, she predicted the greenhouse effect that we see today with the increase in carbon dioxide in our atmosphere.

Unfortunately, credit for the greenhouse effect went to John Tyndall, an Irish physicist popularly known as the “Father of Climate Science.” Through his experiments, Tyndall came to the same conclusion that water vapor and carbon dioxide would cause heat to rise on Earth, but his experiments were done three years after those of Eunice Foote! It wasn't until 2011 that Eunice Newton-Foote's groundbreaking experiments came to light due

to the accidental discovery of her writings by Raymond Sorenson, an avid collector of old scientific journals and manuscripts.

Beyond being a pioneering woman scientist, Foote was also a feminist and suffragist. At the Seneca Falls Convention, she was the 5th of sixty-eight women to sign the Women's Declaration of Sentiments, which demanded equality for women in all aspects of life. Her husband, an inventor and lawyer and future US Commissioner of Patents was one of 32 men to sign the Declaration at the Convention.

Eunice Foote, herself an inventor, held patents in her own name for a shoe insert to prevent squeaking, a paper-making machine, and ice skates without straps.

Learn more about this groundbreaking climate scientist in honor of Earth Day 2026:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eunice_Newton_Foote

<https://www.earthday.org/press-release/earthday-org-announces-the-global-theme-for-earth-day-april-22-2026-our-power-our-planet/>

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/female-scientist-who-discovered-basics-climate-science-and-was-forgotten-history>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/subjects/social-studies/hidden-voices/contentdetails/hidden-voices/2025/04/22/eunice-foote-the-nearly-forgotten-mother-of-climate-science>

Hopefully, you are able to attend our annual Scholarship Luncheon to support NMCB scholarships and celebrate the 2026 Women of Achievement.

We'll see you there! Happy Spring!
Heather and Peggy, Co-Presidents



Heather Balczarek
Peggy James

WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT HONOREES



AAUW-NM Country Branch is proud to recognize Abby Daly as a *2026 Woman of Achievement*.

In 2003, Abby Daly founded [Bridge of Books](#) and has since served as volunteer Executive Director, guiding every aspect of the organization's work — from book donations and fund development to volunteer recruitment, logistics, and strategic outreach. Under her leadership, well over 1.5 million new and gently used children's books have been distributed to approximately 600,000 at-risk children throughout New Jersey.

A graduate of Smith College and Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Abby previously served as NJ Deputy Attorney General representing the Division of Youth and Family Services. Abby and her husband Fran live in Locust Pointe, NJ, and have two children.

Submitted by Amy DeSanctis



AAUW-NM Country Branch is proud to recognize Lynn Hawkins and Quady Simmons as *2026 Women of Achievement*.



As we learned from last month's *NetWorks*, it will be a privilege to hear from Lynn Hawkins and Quady Simmons -- who set up this lovely place where children can feel welcomed and cared for at almost any hour of the day or night. This is the first crisis nursery in New Jersey, and we will celebrate these women and their work on April 29 at the end of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Reducing parental stress is the best way to reduce child abuse and that is the goal of these two Women of Achievement honorees.

Marian Wattanbarger and I went to their first Fundraiser on March 10th and learned a bit more about their support of women and children who are involved at 180 Turning Lives Around. And as that speaker said -- "When you feel that you cannot do one more thing without some support for you and your children...Pinwheel Place is there."

Submitted by Judy Kramer



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility

We will again be doing the *Shape the Future* membership campaign at the Scholarship luncheon on April 29. A new member can join AAUW for \$64.00 instead of the new membership rate of \$102.00. This membership will extend to June 30, 2027. Bring a friend(s) and encourage them to join and share in these great savings.

Co-Membership Directors:
Mary Lea Burden
Judy Kramer

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES

Vote in AAUW's National Election
Anyone who is a member of record as of March 14, 2026, will be eligible to vote in AAUW's National Election in April/May 2026.

Check out the 2026 Voter Issue Guide
AAUW and AAUW Action Fund's [Voter Issue Guide](#) uplifts key gender equity issues at stake in the 2026 elections. Use this nonpartisan guide to educate yourself and your community, prompt conversations, and pose questions to candidates so you can make informed decisions at the ballot box.



It's My Vote! 2026: From Issues That Matter to Actions That Count
Join us on April 14 at 7pm ET to learn how you can turn the issues that matter into action that counts. [Register here](#).

Nancy Butler, Public Policy Director

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

We are very thankful to these members who volunteered to serve on the committee. We ask that if they call you to be nominated for a board position, you consider serving on the NMCB executive board for the next two years. Together we can continue the great work this branch does and continue our community of friends.

Thank you,
Heather and Peggy, Co-Presidents NMCB

Chair : Lauren Nicosia
Linda Ensor
Connie Goddard
Joan Hebert
Ellen Jackson
Lorraine Stone
Patty Whyte

The 18th Running & Winning Workshop Encourages Young Women to Be Part of Public Life

Submitted by Marian Wattanbarger



On March 25, at Monmouth Regional High School, the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW was pleased to continue as one of the sponsors of *Running & Winning*, a

day-long workshop for young women who are high school juniors. *Running & Winning* was initiated by the League of Women Voters (LWV) who invited other groups committed to women's participation in civic life to join them as sponsors in 2007, and this branch said yes.

Except for a few years during the COVID pandemic when no events were held, we have been one of the sponsors of *Running & Winning* for all of the 18 years it has been held in northern Monmouth County. When it began here, there were no women from NJ represented in the US Congress and only a few in the state legislature. The goal of the sponsors was to encourage young women to register to vote when they were eligible and to consider running for public office someday.

One of the annual highlights of the workshop day is an opportunity for the students in small groups to interact with women of both major political parties and non-partisan individuals elected to school boards, and to learn why they ran for office and what it is like to hold an elective office. The day ends with presentations by the small working groups, giving every student the opportunity to find her voice in presenting an appeal to a hypothetical school board.



Photo: Suzanne Wykoff, Hadassah Member Partner

In the next edition of *NetWorks* we will share more information about the attendees and their presentations. As someone who has participated in R&W since its inception in Monmouth County, I want to encourage any members who are interested to consider volunteering next year. Members of the Steering Committee agree that it is one of the most satisfying collaborative experiences we have had as volunteers. This year **Judy Kramer** and I served on the Steering Committee and we were delighted to welcome **Theresa Blackburn** to join as a facilitator. She will be a member of the Steering Committee next year. Any one of us would be happy to speak with you about volunteering to be part of this once a year event that seeks to give women a voice and a vote in creating public policy that affects us all.

Judy Kramer adds:

At *Running & Winning* we give away a plant at the end as a little "thank you for helping young women grow." Usually we include a quote from one of the "greats" (Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Eleanor Roosevelt...etc.), but this year it was a quote from Taylor Swift -- one of the new "greats" and likely more familiar to our high school girls...

"Never be so polite, you forget your power... Never wield so much power you forget to be polite."



Photo: Judy Kramer

Study Group News

Dear Friends,
Thanks to all Study Groups who contributed items for the Scholarship Luncheon raffle baskets!

Interested in joining an established Study Group? Check with the Chairs in the groups 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 current possibilities.

Susan Gelber, Study Group Director



Art History

We hope to see our members at the upcoming Scholarship Luncheon.

Keep us in mind when you learn of interesting art exhibitions to share.

If you have any questions, contact the co-chairs:
Joan Fructer

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 Into Our Times

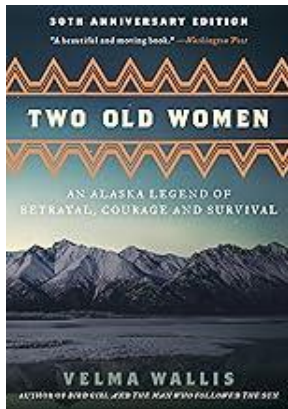
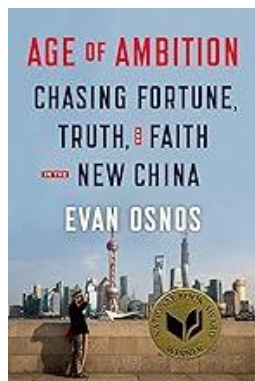
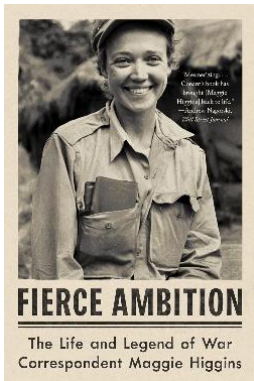
Insights, our non-fiction book group meets for discussion on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June.

Our April 14 meeting at 2 p.m., at the home of Marian Wattenbarger, will feature a discussion on *Fierce Ambition: The Life and Legend of War Correspondent Maggie Higgins*, by Jennet Conant. Plan to use valet parking at the Atrium. Please RSVP to Marian about whether or not you plan to attend.

On May 12, we will meet via Zoom at 11 a.m. (courtesy of Sue Smith) to discuss *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth and Faith in the New China* by Evan Osnos. This was the National Book Award winner in 2014, and a Pulitzer prize finalist in for General Nonfiction.

Our June 9 potluck meeting at noon, at the home of Judy Kramer, will include a discussion on *Two Old Women: An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival* by Velma Wallace. We will also consider titles for fall discussions. RSVP to Judy and let her know what you plan to contribute to the lunch.

Please mark these events on your calendars. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Scholarship Luncheon at Beacon Hill Country Club on April 29. The registration form can be found in this issue of *NetWorks*.



New Members are always welcome. Contact chair, Kathy Olsen for more information.

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

Writing Study Group

The Writing group is interested in a restart. We need a few more members in order to begin. Are you a writer . . . or want to be? Writing fiction, memoir, history, poetry? Need a sounding board?

We'd love to get together. Please contact Karen Topham if you'd like to join us.

Do you play bridge? The AAUW bridge group is looking for players in their bridge group. If you have a partner and want to play or if you need a partner, please let us know. This group supports our Branch scholarships each year as well as awarding prizes to winners.

Call/text Linda Plamondon for more information.

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

The Used Book Sale is celebrating spring and the return of warmer weather. We have some great volunteers who keep showing up. If you haven't volunteered at the Book Sale yet, consider joining the fun.

Check our website for donation policies. All profits from the Book Sale help provide scholarships for local women and girls.

NetWorks is published by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Upcoming due dates for copy: Monday, April 27 for May issue; Wednesday, May 27 for June issue. Please submit copy to Karen Topham, Editor.

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*.

National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Univ of Maryland, College Park | May 27-30
| [Registration Open](#) | [Scholarships Available](#)

NCCWSL unites college women from across the nation for a transformative experience in leadership development and networking! We are so proud of the work branches put in each year to help spread the word and collaborate with local campuses to facilitate student attendance at this extraordinary event! [Learn more!](#)

AAUW NJ: THE MARCH AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

AAUW NJ began its campaign against human trafficking in 2007 when then State President Virginia (Ginny) Lyttle (2006-2010) hosted a state-wide seminar. In 2011 she and other AAUW NJ members joined as charter members forming the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking (SaferNJ.org). They serve on the Coalition's Operating Council. Ginny has been named Honorary Chair of the World Cup Committee. There are currently over 200 organizations working to eliminate labor and sex trafficking.

Human trafficking has been around for hundreds of years, but it has been in the forefront of the news for the past several years. The two highest criminal revenue sources are drugs and human trafficking.

A drug can be sold once; humans can be sold again and again. They are literally held

in bondage.

It is an established fact that the demand for sex trafficking increases when there is a large sporting event, such as the Super Bowl or the World Cup. And New Jersey will be hosting several World Cup games and associated events this summer.

The Coalition is asking the members of the Operating Council to contact its members for support in making the public aware and seeking funds to support victim services, such as health care, housing, food, shelter, and counseling. This is where you come in. In order to march, one needs footwear. Go to your closet and count the number of pairs of shoes you have. If you donate \$1 for each pair to [SaferNJ.org](#), we can raise enough money for our awareness campaign and for the needed services. Consider this as a "shoe tax."

Make your check payable to SaferNJ and mail it to: Virginia Lyttle, Honorary Chair World Cup Committee, 3 Valley Stream Drive, Morris Plains, NJ 07950 by April 30, 2026. Please write your branch on the memo line.

Your check will help someone walk free.

Ginny can be contacted at: lyttlevirginia@yahoo.com or (973) 267-2743.

New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking (NJCAHT): [SaferNJ.org](#)



10th Annual Scholarship Luncheon



Wednesday ♦ April 29 ♦ Noon
 Beacon Hill Country Club
 Atlantic Highlands, NJ

featuring

Diane Lang

Author and Positive Psychology Coach

Mindfully Happy--Waking Up To Life

Learn practical tools to help you live with more awareness, intention and joy.

Please join us to celebrate our *2026 Women of Achievement*, Abigail Daly from Bridge of Books and Lynn Hawkins and Quadhera Simmons from Pinwheel Place. Support AAUW-NMCB's scholarships and special programs for women and girls. Feast on an elegant three course meal and enjoy a spectacular view.

\$98.00 - Firm deadline for reservation receipt is April 11.

----- Reservation -----

NAME _____	EMAIL _____
ADDRESS _____	PHONE _____
NUMBER _____	TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED _____

Please seat me with _____ or feel free to make a table assignment.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ENTRÉE CHOICE: | SALAD CHOICE: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pan-seared chicken, dried cranberries, citrus beurre blanc | <input type="checkbox"/> Roasted beets, baby greens, goat cheese, pomegranate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Salmon with dill cream sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> Baby arugula, pear, candied pecans, balsamic dressing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spinach mushroom ravioli, vegan alfredo sauce | |

CASH ONLY bar available. Handicapped accessible.

Please make checks payable to "AAUW-NMCB"

Send to AAUW-NMCB, PO Box 398, Red Bank, NJ 07701 for receipt by April 11.

Or pay through PayPal at www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org AAUW-NMCB is a 501(c)(3) organization.

I cannot attend, but I am including a scholarship donation. For more info-732-275-2237

Diane Lang will have books available for sale at luncheon.



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 news and
updates with your email address and zip
code.

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Branch phone 732-275-2237

AAUW Action Network www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/



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