

**Career and Technical Education
in Monmouth County
October 6, 2025, Branch Meeting
7 p.m.
Shrewsbury Historical Society
419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ**

As many of us know, high schools and colleges are being challenged to meet the growing demand for workforce preparation. What we might not be aware of is the extent and variety of the courses and programs offered by Brookdale Community College and the Monmouth County Vocational School District (MCVSD). It isn't just cosmetology and carpentry, but diesel mechanics and digital design, along with marine science and allied health, all taught at various levels for both secondary students and adults.

Brookdale Community College, too, has found demand for its certification programs grow markedly, also in a variety of different fields – from operating a sonogram to managing a construction site, or doing a career change to meet the demand for certified teachers.

Once known as vocational education, these programs are now called CTE, for Career and Technical Education. At our October meeting, we will have an opportunity to learn more about the county's vigorous efforts to provide high-quality, relevant opportunities. And learn from the people who head them up. Susan Pagano, who leads Brookdale's division of Continuing and Professional Studies, will be one of our speakers; she will be joined by a representative from MCVSD.

The meeting will be Monday evening, October

6, beginning at 7 p.m. It will be held at the Shrewsbury Historical Society, at the corner of Sycamore Avenue and Broad Street. Feel free to invite neighbors, particularly parents whose children are beginning to consider options for their future.



Presidents' Message

Dear members and friends,
We hope everyone enjoyed this crazy hot and rainy summer! As the days get shorter and the air cools, we are looking forward to fall and the start of the new Northern Monmouth County Branch year. This summer, the program directors, Ellen Jackson and Theresa Tuttle, met with a group to plan a fantastic slate of programs for the year. We hope that you will be able to join us at many of these programs.

Our first meeting will be held at the Shrewsbury Historical Society on October 6, at 7 p.m. Watch *NetWorks* and your email for branch meeting flyers with details on times and programs.

Board meetings will now be held in person at 5 p.m. before most branch meetings at the Shrewsbury Historical Society. These meetings are open to branch members - bring your dinner and join us - we would love to have you!

Then stay for the branch meeting and monthly program.

One goal the board has set for the upcoming 2025-2026 year is to recruit new members and grow our membership; we encourage you to bring a friend or two to our branch meetings. They are always welcome!

This year we are also looking to increase engagement and connection between members. Please consider working at the book sale or joining a committee. The branch runs on the strength of its members, and we strengthen our community and connections when we work together. This branch has accomplished many worthy goals in its almost 100-year history. Look for signups at the branch meetings or speak with a board member for ways you can get involved.

Looking forward to reconnecting with everyone at the October meeting!

Heather and Peggy, Co-Presidents



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Is Everyone's Responsibility

Thanks to all who have paid their dues to date. Many thanks to those who have returned the volunteer sheet as this helps us to find areas that interest our members.

Co-Membership Directors:
Mary Lea Burden
Judy Kramer

AAUW MISSION

Advancing gender equity through education and advocacy.



Photo: Barbara Withers

"The Bias Inside Us"

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit

Through September 7

Monmouth Museum on the Brookdale Campus

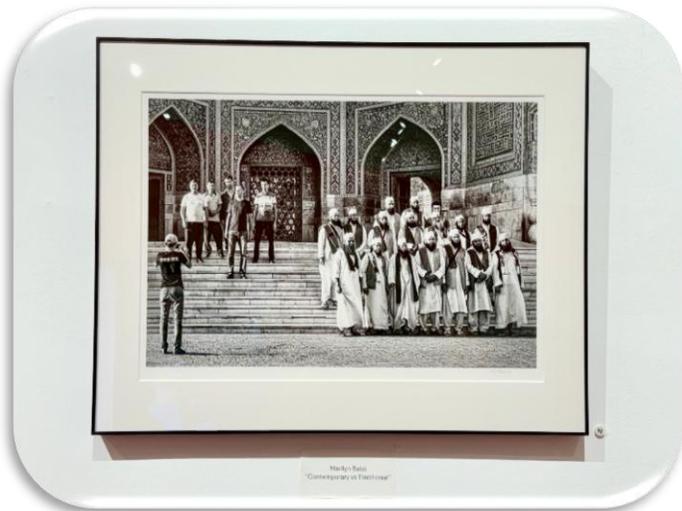
765 Newman Spring Rd., Lincroft, NJ

Follow signs to Parking Lot #1

Hours: Tuesdays - Sundays 10 am - 4 pm

Admission: General \$14; \$10 for seniors

The [Monmouth Museum](#) is proud to host [The Bias Inside Us](#), a traveling Smithsonian exhibition dedicated to exploring the concept of bias—how it shapes our perspectives, interactions, and society as a whole. This exhibition aims to foster dialogue, understanding, and empathy within our diverse community. Branch member **Marilyn Baldi** is one of the local artists whose work was selected for the exhibit.



Marilyn Baldi's Photo in the Bias Inside Us Exhibit

“I think
unconscious
bias is one of
the hardest
things to get at.”
—Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Associate Justice
U.S. Supreme Court

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES

AAUW Fellowships and Grants for 2025-26:

In July, AAUW proudly announced more than \$5.3 million in awards to 228 women scholars and community projects for the new academic year. “For more than 100 years, AAUW’s fellowships and grants have opened doors for women to lead, innovate, and thrive. This funding is not just support—it’s a catalyst for change, especially for women of color and those in STEM who continue to face systemic barriers. I am inspired by this year’s recipients and excited to see how their work will shape a better future for us all,” said AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell.

Message from Gloria L. Blackwell in the

Mission & Action Newsletter:

“As summer winds down and a new academic year approaches, we’re filled with anticipation and hope! Soon, our 2025–26 Fellows and Grantees will begin their studies — stepping into classrooms, research labs, and leadership roles with courage — ready to break barriers and chart bold new futures. These extraordinary women are not only pursuing their dreams; they’re shaping a future where equity, opportunity, and innovation thrive, and their journeys inspire us all.

“Each new class of AAUW awardees is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve together. Their journeys reflect the strength of our collective commitment — and the impact of your support. Thanks to your generosity, they are breaking barriers and building bold new paths forward.

“This year, higher education has faced profound challenges — from attacks on academic freedom to widening gaps in access and opportunity. But AAUW remains steadfast. For more than a century, we’ve championed women’s education — especially for those from underrepresented communities. Today, our mission is more vital than ever. We’re proud to be the largest non-institutional funder of women’s graduate-level education in the U.S.

“Your continued support fuels our work. Together, we’re defending education, empowering women, and creating conditions for equity to flourish. The promise of these scholars and community leaders is a promise for all of us: that education can still be a force for progress, inclusion, and justice.”

Applications Are Now Open – Help Us Spread the Word!

AAUW's fellowships and grants applications are officially open until September 30 for 2026-2027. Our prestigious awards provide vital funding for scholars, researchers, and community leaders advancing equity for women and girls. [We encourage you to share these opportunities widely within your networks so more talented applicants can benefit.](#)

Speak Up on New Federal Rules:

AAUW is engaging in regulatory advocacy – responding to proposed rules from the Administration, not Congress. These decisions shape how laws are implemented, and once finalized, can be harder to undo than legislation. From eliminating federal loans for graduate students, removing abortion care from veterans' medical benefits, to leaving federal contract workers vulnerable to discrimination, these rules will shape access to education, health care, and civil rights for years to come. [Stand with us — submit your public comment today so policymakers hear from us loud and clear.](#)

Support AAUW's Bold Moves:

AAUW's mission to advance gender equity through education and advocacy is more urgent than ever, and your support can make a powerful impact. By donating to the Greatest Needs Fund, the Public Policy Fund, and the Defend Higher Education Fund, you help ensure AAUW can respond to emerging challenges, drive policy change, and empower women in higher education and the workforce. [Donate here.](#)

September Webinars:

“AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid” Tuesday, September 16, 2-3 p.m. ET

“AAUW Start Smart”
Wednesday, September 24, 4-5 p.m. ET

“AAUW Money Smart: Smart Foundations”
Tuesday, September 30, 4-5 p.m. ET

Register at
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/womens-economic-empowerment-initiative/>

Nancy Butler, Public Policy Director

Study Group News

Dear Friends,
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.

If you are interested in joining a new Spanish Conversation study group, contact me.
Susan Gelber, Study Group Director

Art History

Saturday, September 20
Fort Hancock Museum/History House on Sandy Hook.
Meet at 1 p.m. at the Museum, followed by lunch at *Mule Barn Tavern* nearby.
The photography exhibit is: “Sunset Hues of Fort Hancock, Embrace the Tranquility,” by Collette Kennedy.
Museum address: 28 Kewarney Road, Highlands, NJ (near the Lighthouse)

Friday, October 17
Atlantic Highlands Art Council [opens at 12 noon]
54 First Avenue
“Roots and Colors” explores the rich, multifaceted nature of Hispanic heritage through visual art, focusing on the interplay between cultural roots and vibrant expressions of identity.
Meet at 10:30 a.m. for brunch at *Sissy's at the Harbor*
8 Simon Lake Dr, Atlantic Highlands, NJ
07716-1259

Friday, November 14
Princeton Art Museum (New!!)
Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Museum
Enjoy lunch at the Museum's *Mosaic Restaurant*

December date TBD
Holiday Shopping in Asbury Park and Lunch

Watch your email for timely updates. All Branch members welcome.

Hope to see you at Sandy Hook in September. Get there early and walk the Hook or just enjoy the beach and bay...bring your cameras!

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.

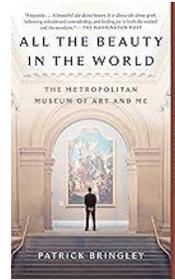
Chair: Jeannine Maloney

Insights Into Our Times

Insights, our non-fiction book group meets for discussion at 2 p.m., on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June.

Insights will meet on Tuesday, September 9, at 2 p.m. at the home of Kathy Olsen, 17 Warren Dr., Aberdeen, to discuss *All the Beauty in the World: the Metropolitan Museum and Me* by

Patrick Bringley. All are welcome to attend. Contact hostess to RSVP closer to the meeting date.



Upcoming: October 14: *They Call Me a Lioness* by Ahed Tamimi and Dena Takruri, 2023.

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

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 want to join us.

Book Sale Book Sale Book Sale Re-Opening on Saturday, September 6

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

Our AAUW Used Book Sale reopens Saturday, September 6, 10:00 - 2:00. Come check out the great selection of recent releases in hardcover and paperback. We have an outstanding selection of CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, vinyl records, puzzles, and games.

We also need additional volunteers on Saturdays for a two-hour shift from 10:00 - 12:00 or 12:00 - 2:00; on Thursdays, we need help with sorting and shelving from 10:00-12:00. It's a great way to get to know other members. Bring a friend!

Remember that this is a fundraiser for the Branch to support our scholarships and other programs for women and girls.

Thanks to all those who continue to help at the Book Sale!

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

From Our Annual Branch Meeting June 30, 2025



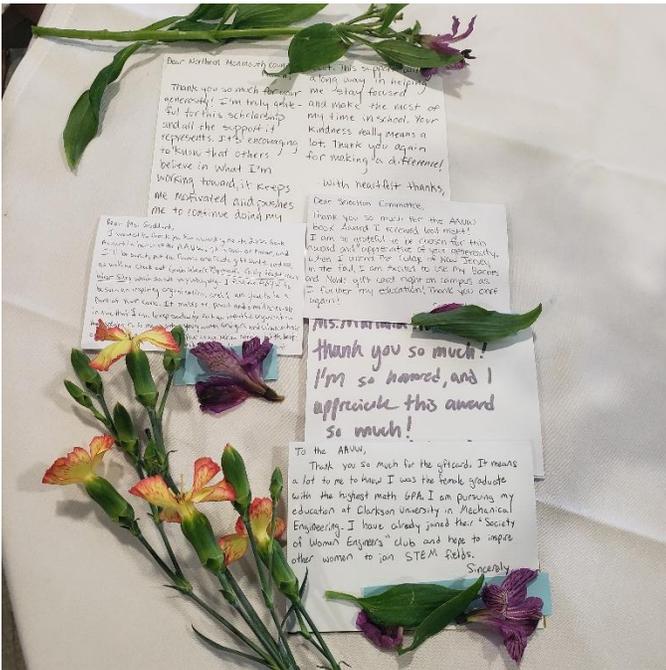
Thank you to The Atrium, Red Bank, for hosting our meeting.



Co-Presidents Heather Balczarek (left) and Marian Wattanbarger (right) receiving thank-you presents from Barbara Withers (center) for all their work as their terms come to an end.



Members were invited to create their own bouquets to celebrate the end of a great year. Mary Lea Burden is choosing her flowers. In the background, Connie Goddard (left) and Heather Balczarek (right) are delving into some historic branch scrapbooks.



Each year every girl receives a personal journal – compliments of NMCB – to record their camp experiences and the contact information on all the new friends they make. Stockton University’s Dean of Education Claudine Keenan has always been committed to creating and maintaining a strong community among all the girls who attend. They keep in touch thru the years and even had a week long reunion in 2022.

Our three campers, Hazel, Charlie and Elizabeth, will be invited to speak at our October NMCB branch meeting. Please remember to come out to this meeting and hear from these inspiring young women who make our efforts so worthwhile!

The branch received a number of thank-you notes from the top female math students graduating high school whom we honor with a gift card to a local bookstore.

**Civility Week
at Brookdale Community College
September 29 Kickoff Event
October 6 – 10, 2025**

This year the theme for Civility week is Democracy takes Courage--A Commitment, Not A Given.

Look [here](#) for the schedule of events.

Many of the events are open to the public and **Connie Goddard** is one of the speakers.

[Registration](#)

TechTrek

The AAUW NJ residential summer STEM camp at Stockton University held its 10th season this July 2025! Sufficient funds were raised for 48 rising 8th-grade girls drawn statewide from teacher recommendations of their top STEM students. Monmouth County was fortunate to have three girls selected to attend.



NetWorks is published by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Upcoming due dates for copy: Thursday, September 25 for the October issue; Friday, October 24 for the November issue; Friday, November 21 for the December/January 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*.



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

Re-Opening Saturday, September 6
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-NJ <https://aauwnj.org>

AAUW-NMCB www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org

Branch phone 732-275-2237

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



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