



NetWorks

Newsletter of the Northern Monmouth County (NJ) Branch, American Association of University Women
Volume 70, Number 2

October 2025

Workforce Education
October 6, 2025, Branch Meeting
7 p.m.
Shrewsbury Historical Society
419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ

Monmouth County's extensive array of programs preparing young people for careers will be the topic at an AAUW meeting scheduled for Monday, October 6, beginning at 7 p.m. Speakers will be Joe Senerchia, director of student services for MCVSD (Monmouth County Vocational School District), and Susan Pagano, who directs the certification programs at Brookdale Community College.

Interest in these programs is growing, and schools in the county have responded with opportunities for certification and career prep in a great variety of fields.

Parents of middle school students are invited to attend, as well as the general public and our members.

For further information, see <http://www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org/> or call Connie Goddard.

Presidents' Message

Dear members and friends,

Spooky season is upon us! The weather is turning colder, and fall is officially here. Time to get out the pumpkins and apple cider!

You have probably heard of Victoria Woodhull -

a champion of women's rights, suffragist, publisher, successful businesswoman, and stockbroker. What you may not know is that she was also a spiritualist!

In 1870, Woodhull and her sister, Jennie Woodhull, founded the first female-led brokerage firm on Wall Street. Wall Street brokers were shocked and published scathing reviews; however, the sisters persisted and successfully ran their brokerage with many women as their clients. Of becoming the first female broker, Woodhull said, "We went into Wall Street not particularly because I wanted to be a broker ... but because I wanted to plant the flag of women's rebellion in the center of the continent." The sisters were very successful and made a fortune; they even counted Cornelius Vanderbilt as a supporter and client.

With this fortune, the sisters started the first woman-owned newspaper. They wrote and published progressive ideas on divorce, marriage rights, and workers' rights.

Victoria Woodhull was also very active politically. She was the first woman to testify before a House Judiciary Committee. She argued that American women already possessed the right to vote under the 14th and 15th amendments; unfortunately, the committee declined to accede to their demand.

Then in 1872, Woodhull challenged the status quo running for president. Women couldn't vote – but no laws were preventing them from running for president! In announcing her campaign in the *New York Herald*, she wrote, "While others argued the equality of woman with man, I proved it by successfully engaging

in business; while others sought to show that there was no valid reason why women should be treated socially and politically as a being inferior to man, I boldly entered the arena of politics and business and exercised the rights I already possessed.” Her campaign supported an 8-hour workday, one-term limits for presidents, public education for all, women’s suffrage, and fair divorce laws. Ultimately, her campaign was not successful as she was not only a woman, but at 34 was not actually old enough to run for president.

In addition to her many accomplishments, Victoria Woodhull was an accomplished spiritualist. Born into poverty with a conman as a father, Victoria, as a young woman, supported her family as a Spiritualist. Later, she and her sister continued their careers as mediums. They offered stock tips to Cornelius Vanderbilt and spiritual healing as well as finding lost objects.

For more on Victoria Woodhull, see this interesting cartoon from NPR:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/the-picture-show/2025/03/31/g-s1-57284/the-woman-who-ran-for-president-50-years-before-she-could-vote>

We are looking forward to many fantastic branch meetings and we hope to see many of you there! Please bring a friend to a branch meeting and introduce them to AAUW.

Please bring your calendars and planners to the meetings - we’ll have sign-up sheets for volunteering for the used book sale and meeting hospitality.

Together we make a difference!

Remember that a board meeting will be held at 5 p.m. before the branch meetings.

Join us – bring your dinner with you!

Happy October!



Heather and Peggy, Co-Presidents

Heather Balczarek
Peggy James

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT *Membership Is Everyone’s Responsibility*

We will be publishing a yearbook this fall. If you have not paid your dues to date, please submit them to ensure you are listed in the yearbook.

We will be doing the Shape the Future membership campaign at the October 6 meeting. This is for **new** members only or those whose membership has lapsed for two years. New members can join AAUW for \$63.00 instead of the regular membership rate of \$100.00. This membership will extend to June 30, 2026.

Bring a friend(s) and encourage them to join and share in this great savings. Cash, check or pay online for a small additional fee.

Change of Address:

Marian Wattenbarger
Email and phone remain the same.

Co-Membership Directors:
Mary Lea Burden
Judy Kramer

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS AND RESOURCES



Boscov's
FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS
IN-STORE & ONLINE
ONE DAY ONLY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 - SHOP 8AM - 11PM

25% OFF*
LOWEST SALE PRICE
SHOPPING PASS

This pass entitles you to 25% off* your purchases in-store or online and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts and promotions. Present this pass at time of purchase to receive your 25%* discount. Valid in-store and online Wednesday, October 22, 2025 only.

\$5 DONATION PER PASS

100% of your donation benefits the local non-profit organization from which you purchased this pass. *See reverse side for a list of merchandise receiving 15% and 10% Off as well as exclusions. For more details visit [boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends](https://www.boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends)



Boscov's FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS special shopping day is Wednesday, October 22, 2025. This fundraiser for our Branch is a perfect opportunity for you to do some early holiday shopping or just treat yourself to something new – at **25% off lowest sale price of any item in the store or online.**

When you purchase a shopping pass for \$5.00 it allows you to shop and save. It also helps our Branch as we keep the \$5.00 for our scholarship fund. The passes are good in the store or online.

The passes are available at our Book Sale on Thursdays and Saturdays and will also be available at our October 6 Branch meeting. OR you can contact Ruth Hodum. After receiving your check (made out to AAUW NMCB) or cash, she will mail you your purchased passes.

Please encourage friends and family to buy passes as well.

In her September newsletter, “Mission & Action,” AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell focuses on our 2025 Strategic Plan for “advancing equity for women and girls and reaffirming our three core priorities: funding higher education, removing barriers to success in higher education and the workplace, and strengthening AAUW’s reach and impact. ...Education is especially important now when we have new data that shows that women continue to struggle with economic security for a second consecutive year. ...In 2024, women working full-time, year-round earned just 81 cents for every dollar earned by men, down from 83 cents the previous year.” And the ratio is lower for part-time workers and far lower for women of color. This indicates “a systemic failure rooted in inadequate paid leave, insufficient childcare support, and pay laws that fall short. And we are working tirelessly to change it.” Read our statement [here](#) to see how AAUW continues to provide solutions in the face of this systemic problem.

Take Action!

- One in four undergrads and one in three

grad students are parents—most of them women. Childcare costs average more than \$11,500/year. [Ask your members of Congress to support timely CCAMPIS grants for student parents.](#)

- Nearly every worker will need time away from their job — whether it's to recover from illness, welcome a new baby, or care for a loved one. But the current law only provides unpaid leave, and nearly half of workers aren't even eligible. Women and workers of color are hit hardest, compounding inequities in pay and career advancement. The AAUW-endorsed FAMILY Act was reintroduced Sept. 16. [Tell Congress to pass paid leave now.](#)

Sign up for AAUW Action Network: Receive regular alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to your legislators, writing letters to the editor, and other timely calls to action. www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist

National Women's History Museum Webinar:

- October 15, 3-4 pm: Without Fear: Black Women and the Making of Human Rights, live in conversation with author Keisha Blain, moderated by AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell. Keisha is professor of Africana studies and history at Brown University and received an AAUW American Fellowship for 2016-17. Register here: [Without Fear: Live in Conversation with Author Keisha Blain](#)

October Free Webinars:

AAUW's Virtual Empowerment Trainings offer expert-led training in salary negotiation, financial literacy, and career development to help women advance professionally and economically. [Explore our upcoming webinars today!](#)

- October 8, 5-6 pm: AAUW Work Smart Refresher
- October 15, 5-6 pm: AAUW Start Smart

- October 23, 3-4 pm: AAUW Money Smart: Smart Finances

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.

Susan Gelber, Study Group Director

Art History

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.

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.

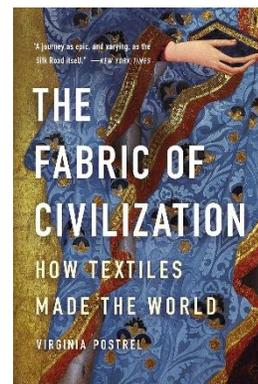
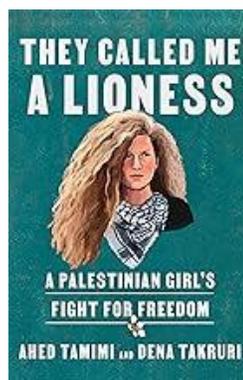
Chair: Jeannine Maloney

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.

On Tuesday, October 14, the Insights study group, which concentrates on non-fiction literature, will meet at 2 p.m. at the home of Judy Kramer to discuss *They Call Me a Lioness: a Palestinian Girl's Fight for Freedom*, by Ahed Tamini and Dena Takruri. Please RSVP to let Judy know of your plan to attend.

The November 11 choice is *Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World* by Virginia Postrel.



New members are always welcome. Contact chair, Kathy Olsen, for details.

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.

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

Our AAUW Used Book Sale opened on Saturday, September 6, on a high note, with brisk sales. It was good see our regular customers who expressed how glad they were to be back at the Book Sale, and to meet many new people. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to work!

If you haven't worked at the Book Sale, come join us on a Thursday from 10 - 12, when we meet to sort and shelve our book donations. It's fun and a good way to meet other members.

The proceeds from the Book Sale help support scholarships for local women and girls. It also offers a community service by providing a place where people can donate books they no longer want. This allows us to present a great selection of books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, puzzles and games at very reasonable prices!

In addition to our Thursdays for sorting and shelving, we are also in need of volunteers for Saturdays. There are two shifts: 10:00 – 12:00 and 12:00 – 2:00. Again, this is a wonderful way to meet other Branch members. BUT you don't need to be a member to help out at the Book Sale; when you volunteer, bring along a friend or neighbor. Let Ruth Hodum know when you'll be there.

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

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](#)

UPCOMING BRANCH MEETING
November 3, 2025
7 p.m.
Shrewsbury Historical Society
419 Sycamore Avenue
Shrewsbury

We will celebrate our right as women to vote with a presentation about Alice Paul, a New Jerseyan who fought tirelessly to pass and ratify the Nineteenth Amendment.

In Memoriam:



Former member **Margaret (Margie) Post** passed away on September 10, 2025, at 97 years of age. She was born and raised in Fair Haven, New Jersey, and always lived locally, finally settling, for many happy years, in Seabrook Village where she enjoyed the company of many lifelong friends. Margaret graduated from

Rumson High School and Newark State Teacher's College but never stopped learning.

She taught at Wolf Hill School in Oceanport for 25 years. Teaching was her passion and her joy, as reflected by her receiving the 1989-90 Governor's Teacher Recognition Award. The caring and supportive relationships she had with her fellow teachers continued long after her retirement.

Margaret was active at the Red Bank United Methodist Church, the Shrewsbury Senior Homesteaders, the AAUW Drama group, and a writers' group, which led to a legacy of wonderful life stories.

NetWorks is published by the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Upcoming due dates for copy: 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*.

The Shrewsbury Historical Society

**Autumn Harvest Party
Lone Oak Manor -- 489 Sycamore Avenue
Home of the Chimento Family**

Hosts

**Stephen and Marianne Chagares
Sunday, October 19, 2025 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

\$50.00 per person

Please complete the information, detach and send to:

The Shrewsbury Historical Society

P. O. Box 333

Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Venmo @ShrewsburyHistorical-Society

_____ will attend at \$50.00 per person

_____ unable to attend

I am enclosing a tax deductible donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Please respond on or before October 13, 2025





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.

Stay Connected!

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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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