



## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

MADISON AREA BRANCH

Ann Huber, President

January, 2024

*EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881*



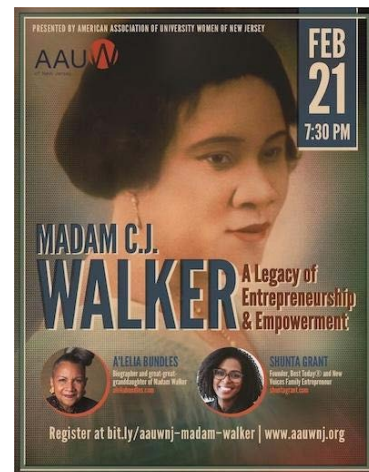
### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."*

Oprah Winfrey

Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls because of the roles and tasks they are assigned and other discrimination, according to various reports by the UN. It is not only a climate crisis, but also a social justice crisis. Thus, it is important that women take the lead on the road to gender equity. Many women already have, such as, Christiana Figueres, an internationally recognized leader on global climate change, Rhiaana Gunn-Wright, a climate Policy Director, or Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Chadian environmental activist and geographer, to name a few.

It is not only the industrial complex and corporations that are to blame for climate change. As individuals we need to recognize our own role. In my humble opinion, the "American Dream" took a wrong turn on the road to suburbia. Two and a half people living in a single-family home on a polluting lawn with 2 carbon-producing cars



### February Program 02.21.24

#### Madam C. J. Walker: A legacy of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment

*Register now!* for our Feb. AAUW NJ Program in honor of Black History month. We are all well aware of the special challenges and needs of women of color who are entrepreneurs. Learn the story of one such amazing woman who beat the odds in this virtual program.

For a preview, look for a 4-part Series on CJ Walker which is available on Netflix.

**Don't Miss it!**

on a paved driveway, is a large source of the problem. This lifestyle is not only a source of climate change, but has led to a consumer- economy/society not ecologically minded.

Another aspect of our lifestyle is the ubiquitous plastic water bottle. When did the need for constant hydration become another American Dream? Was it just a marketing scheme? If it is in fact true that we do require that much water, why does it have to be bottled in plastic? And what's wrong with FREE tap water? It was not so long ago, in 1973, that the **Polyethylene terephthalate** (PET) bottle was patented, the first plastic bottle to withstand the pressure of carbonated liquids. Since then, PET plastic has replaced glass as the preferred material for single-purpose water containers, detergent bottles, shampoo, etc. Now, dozens of shoppers load cartons of plastic-wrapped goods into their carbon producing vehicles. Since only 5% of all the plastic we diligently recycle is actually recycled, where does the rest go? Have you seen the vast wasteland of plastic islands in the ocean? Some progress - we eliminated the single use plastic bag, mostly.

What else can we do?

*Let's resolve* to stop the use of nearly all plastics - drink tap water, don't buy any product in a plastic bottle. If we buy the alternatives, we will reduce the demand for such things as salad dressing or cleaning agents or drinks in plastic containers, and persuade manufacturers to stop using them.

*Let's also resolve* to re-think the American Dream. We can still dream of owning our own home but it needn't be a single family home in the middle of a huge grassy lawn. Consider native plantings. Consider a condo or an ADU (accessory dwelling unit) where an adult child, or an aging parent can live nearby.

Lastly for 2024, *let's resolve* to consume a plant- based diet a few times a week as the most effective way to reduce greenhouse gases from raising meat.

Ann Huber

[Read More](#)

**Review & Comment on the Proposal to Open Membership**

Karen Barnes Kaplan  
AAUW-NJ-Programs

## **Broadway Show 03.20.24 TAKE THE BUS!**

Sign up for an upcoming Adult School Day trip to see **The Notebook** on Broadway and a meal at **Sardi's**. <http://www.theadultschool.org>

As of this writing, there are still plenty of seats.

**In-Person Class (includes transportation, orchestra seat and lunch)**

code: 1901 / \$295.00

Wed 9:45 am - 6 pm, March 20

Head to Broadway with us to see a matinee showing of Nicholas Sparks' novel, *The Notebook*. This novel, turned movie, turned musical, follows the love story of Allie and Noah. We will enjoy lunch at one of New York's most renowned and oldest restaurants, Sardi's, prior to the show.

Location: **Memorial Park Parking Lot, located at the intersection of Longview Ave and Rosedale Ave in Madison**

On this crummy weather day I need to think about fun upcoming things to do with friends! Join us,

Susan Mennella  
Meyra Green

**EDUCATION GRANTS for  
WOMEN OVER AGE 25 apply  
after Feb. 1st  
@MadisonAreaAAUW.org**

The deadline to cast your vote on the important amendments to the national bylaws is fast approaching, and we want your voice to be heard!

These amendments, recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and Governance Committee, aim to open membership and bring fresh perspectives to our organization. Comments can be submitted until Friday, January 26 at 5:00 pm.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/?emci=4c3e33ff-83b4-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=20465621-99b4-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=976722>

Shannon Wolfe  
Managing Director and Chief of Staff, AAUW



### REPORT ON JOINT MEETING WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

In recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, this past January 15th, our Madison Branch of AAUW and the LWV of Morristown, co-hosted a screening of the film "Ruby Bridges." The screening was followed by a discussion led by LWV members, Dr. Cynthia Samuels and Judy Woop, seen in the photo above.

We were very happy to see such a large turnout from the local community including the leader and member of Madison's High School 10th grade Girl Scout Troop. In the discussion which ensued, we all agreed that the take-away from the movie was the harsh reality that "you have to be taught to hate."

We also agreed that Ruby's resilience in the face of so much hatred was due in large part to her faith. There is no doubt



### AAUW Madison Area Book Group,

We had a great discussion at our January meeting. Thank you Marianne for hosting and providing delicious goodies. Also, thank you to Ruth for bringing other yummy sweets to share.

Our next hybrid meeting is **Wednesday, February 14th at the home of Kathleen Magill**. Brown bag lunch at 12:30PM with the discussion following at 1PM. The physical address and the Zoom link will be sent closer to the meeting. The book being discussed is: *Beartown* (Beartown #1) by Fredrick Backman.

Susan Mennella and  
Kathleen McGill

that we all shed a tear at Ruby's grace..She was a remarkable child at a remarkable time.

We now have our copy of the DVD. Please contact Susan if you wish to borrow it.

Our thanks to our moderators, to our members and those of LWV, Barbara Koppersmith, Susan Mennella and Ruth Zowader, and John P. of MACA who worked so hard to put together and bring this program to us.



## WANTED!

EDITOR to take over the newsletter! Needs to know how to use Constant Contact. Big thanks go to Meg Mullins who filled in for the past 6 months, and extra special thanks, go to Judy Vernon who has been Editor of the newsletter for soooo many years.

If interested in taking on a new role in our community, PLEASE contact me at [ahuberesq@gmail.com](mailto:ahuberesq@gmail.com) The reward is not monetary but still substantial. A very grateful,  
Ann Huber

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### Ask Congress to **support the Healthy Families Act - TAKE ACTION**

AAUW went to Capitol Hill to ask for support of legislation that would allow workers to earn paid sick days. But your voice is more important! That's because this message needs to come from the constituents back home in their districts.

Lend your voice and urge your members of Congress to support the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 3409/S. 1664) and keep America's working families healthy and economically secure.

Nearly 1 in 4 private sector employees – and more than six in 10 of the lowest-income

## **HOLD THESE DATES**

**MARCH 12, 2024** - STEM EVENT for Middle School Girls  
[MadisonAreaAAUW.org/women-in-stem-event](http://MadisonAreaAAUW.org/women-in-stem-event)

Funded by a grant from the AAUWNJ Charitable Trust  
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## **APRIL 13, 2024** - BOOK SALE

Collection begins March 26-29 at the Y.  
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## **MAY 16, 2024** - MAHJONG TOURNAMENT

Learn, Play & Practice at the twice monthly game. Details at [rentatLbi@optonline.net](mailto:rentatLbi@optonline.net)  
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Exhibit Opening

### **THE TIES THAT BIND:**

How Race Relations Shaped Morris County and New Jersey 1688-2018

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024,  
5:00 – 7:00pm

Therese A. Mahoney Art Gallery

**Saint Elizabeth University**

Educating Women (& Men)  
since 1899

Annunciation Center

2 Convent Road

Morristown, NJ 07960

IN OTHER NEWS.....

workers – don't have even a single paid sick day.

Mary Hager  
Policy Chair, AAUWNJ

Our continued best wishes for a full recovery to **Eileen Ryan**.

Your friends at AAUWMadison

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Congrats Beth Stuehler - Andrea Reiter made a contribution in your honor!!