

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

MADISON AREA BRANCH

Ann Huber, President

March 2024

empowering women since 1881...



President's Message

In celebration of Women's History Month, I thought it important to look at the progress we women have made since the Madison's Chapter of AAUW was organized in 1929. Madison women have honorably fought for equity with advocacy, education, and philanthropy. But how far have we women really come? Let's look at some of our accomplishments.

Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan of the Sisters of Charity of St Elizabeth made history as the founder (in 1899) of the College of St. Elizabeth, the first four-year women's college in NJ and a haven for women's education. Its mission was and is to be a community for learning in the Catholic liberal arts tradition for students of diverse ages, backgrounds, and cultures.

Hildegard Peplau, RN, PhD, a longtime Madison resident, made history as a legendary nurse theorist. She was an American nurse who was the first published

• SAVE THE DATE

AAUW MADISON SPRING FLING ANNUAL LUNCHEON

May 6, 2024

12:00 PM Networking/Socializing

12:30 PM Lunch Buffet

With Summit College Club

Location: Harvest Bistro,
50 1/2 Main St., Madison

MENU – Served Buffet Style

Asst dinner rolls and butter

Mixed greens w roasted peppers and feta
tossed in balsamic

Herb and Garlic Roasted Potatoes

Seasonal Grilled Veggies

Breaded Eggplant,

Fresh Mozzarella and spinach tower w tomato
balsamic glaze

Lemon Chicken

Beverage Station of water, Arnie Palmers, tea
and coffee

Mini Choc Chip cookies

[click here to register](#)

APRIL PROGRAM ON HELPING FIRST-

nursing theorist since Florence Nightingale. She created the middle-range nursing theory of interpersonal relations, which revolutionized the scholarly work of nurses. In addition to being a World War II veteran serving as an Army Corps Nurse in England from 1943, she taught at Rutgers University from 1954 to 1974, was President of the American Nursing Ass'n, Hall of Fame inductee of the ANA, and an Advisor to the WHO.

Rebecca Lassiter, also a longtime resident of Madison, made history as a pastor, theologian, and piano teacher after coming to Madison in 1920. More than anything, Mrs. Lassiter was a racial activist credited with forming the Fair Housing Project to assure Black families safe housing. She also worked on the NJ Federation of Colored Women's Club, the League of Women Voters, the Senior Citizen Club, and the Women's Missionary Society. In 1959, Rebecca Lassiter was honored by Madison Rotary Club as recipient of their Annual Citizen Award, being only the **second** woman to be so acknowledged. See **Dodge**, below.

Finally, there were **Elizabeth G. Baumgartner**, the first woman to become Mayor of Madison (1980 to 1987) and **Geraldine R. Dodge**, Madison's greatest benefactor, the **first** woman to receive the Annual Citizens Award from the Rotary Club (1953). While Mayor, Baumgartner initiated an investigation into the Dodge Foundation to insure they were supporting Mrs. Dodge's lifelong projects, such as Madison Public Library, Madison YMCA, and Jersey Battered Women's Service as well as others. Yet, it would be another 20 years before Madison elected another woman to be mayor.

So, how far have we really come? Although undeniable progress has been made, women have not always been given their due in history. Due to space constraints, I didn't mention all the women who made history, but the proportion of women to men listed in historical records is very small. "I think this proves that we need more than one month a

GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS



Join us for **APRIL 1ST, 7:00 pm** as we welcome Dr. Audrey Fisch, Professor of English for over thirty years at New Jersey City University a public institution that serves first generation and Pell-eligible students. She recognizes the talents and resilience of her diverse, mostly first-generation students and has a keen understanding of the many challenges they face in getting to and succeeding in higher education. A passionate advocate of access and inclusive excellence, she founded and serves as president of More Than Bootstraps.

Dr. Fisch received an AAUW American Fellowship for dissertation research in 1992-1993. This generous funding allowed her to complete her dissertation and doctorate at Rutgers University. Her research ultimately was published by Cambridge University Press as, *American Slaves in Victorian England* (2000).

Guests welcome!
No advance reservations needed.

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

year to promote women’s contributions. We need more women’s studies programs in our high schools and universities and more emphasis on women’s accomplishments in our grade schools so that girls can feel empowered and boys can be enlightened. Instead, here’s what we are currently facing — more than 30 ... states have introduced or passed more than 100 bills to either restrict or regulate diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in the current legislative session, according to an NBC News analysis. It seems that we are fighting an uphill battle this Women’s History Month.” (Susan Waldman, Morris County NOW Newsletter, March 2024).



"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring in a folding chair." Shirley Chisolm.



AAUW Madison Area Branch Mature Women Grant

DEADLINE APPROACHING
Monday, April 1, 2024.

Each applicant **MUST** meet **ALL** of the **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1 - be a woman.
- 2 - be age 25 or over.

President: Ann Huber

Treasurer: Becky Moody (for life!)

Co-Pres Programs: Susan Mennella & Ruth Zowader

Co-Pres Membership: Marianne Belock & Sheri Anderson (term exp 2025)

Recording Sec'ty: Nancy Adamczyk

Corres. Sec'ty: Eileen Ryan

Our bylaws require the election of new directors at the next meeting in May. We hope to have a slate in April.

Shirley Mutchler, longtime member and former president of our Branch, has graciously accepted the job of putting together a Nominating Committee to draw up a new slate.

- **YOUR JOB IS TO:**

- 1) agree to serve on the Nominating Committee
- 2) let her know if your are interested in serving on the Board
- 3) think about helping with newsletter, marketing/promotion, mature women's grant, book sale, public policy, website - ALL these committees could benefit from some new volunteers and it's the only way to find "**purpose, community and friendship.**"

Thank you, thank you to those who have done so much to give us a wonderful two years. Membership is up and spirits are high. Couldn't have been done without you.

Ann Huber

3 - be a resident of one of the following NJ towns: Chatham Borough or Chatham Township, East Hanover Township, Botough of Florham Park, Harding Township, Borough of Madison, Town of Morristown, Morris Township, Borough of Morris Plains, or Randolph Township.

4 - use the grant for education-related expenses incurred in pursuit of a degree or certification.

Please direct questions to the Committee at: aauwgrant@hotmail.com



AAUW Madison Area Mahjong Game

The next games of the mahjong special interest group will be held at the home of Shirley Mutchler. All are welcome even those who need to improve their game or learn how to play. Games on March 12th and March 26th. No game on April 8 - solar eclipse. Bring your lunch at 11:30 and play from 12:00 to 2:30.

RSVP rentatLBI@optonline.net

AAUW Madison Area Book Group

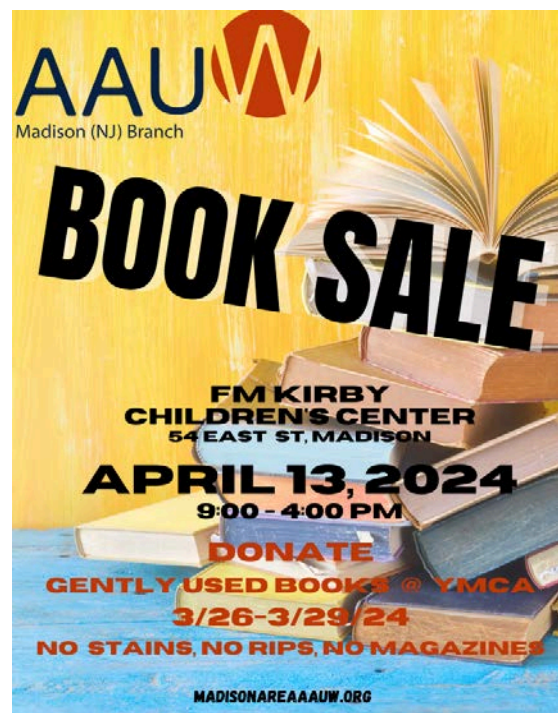
Our next hybrid meeting is **Wednesday, April 10th at 1 PM** at the home of **Ruth Zowader**. Email smennella@verizon.net for address and Zoom link.

April's book selection:
***Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane**

Brown bag lunch at 12:30PM with a discussion following at 1PM.

New participants always welcome! Contact Susan at smennella@verizon.net to be added to book group notification list.

Susan and Kathleen



BOOK COLLECTION BEGINS 3/26/24

IN OTHER NEWS:



A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

- Donna Conley of Madison
- Reggie Gross of Morristown
- Susan Niculescu of Madison

Introduce yourself at the next meeting & find their contact info in our "Members Only" Folder at MadisonAreaAAUW.org

MAHJONG TOURNAMENT

**Sign up now for
MAHJONG TOURNAMENT- MAY 16, 2024-
Community Arts Center**

*4 rounds of play - lunch - prizes -Door Prize
and 50/50 raffle*

*All proceeds benefit Girls' and Women's
Education*

[https://aauwmadisonnj.square.
site/mah-jongg-tournament-may-2024](https://aauwmadisonnj.square.site/mah-jongg-tournament-may-2024)

**MORE ON THE SENSATIONAL
MARCH 12th 2024 MEETING ON
STEM IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.**

**A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME IT WAS A GREAT
SUCCESS!!!!!!**

**WE NEED HELP!! SORTING - SIGN UP at
VOLUNTEERSIGNUP.ORG/CPJA9**

MARCH PROGRAM GREAT SUCCESS!

On March 4th, Cindi Wilson was a lively speaker with a number of interesting jobs in many companies. She did an excellent job discussing Minority Women in STEM careers to a good size turnout of our members and friends. The audience found the topic so intriguing they wished she had spoken a little longer. After some tech issues with videos, she finally was able to get them to play. Others felt that Cindi didn't really need the videos as she is an excellent speaker and a trailblazer for women of color in STEM.



AAUW
Madison (NJ) Branch

**MAHJONGG
TOURNAMENT**

Thurs. May 16, 2024
10 - 3:30 pm \$55 pp*

Madison Community Arts Center
10 Kings Road
Madison, NJ

Lunch - Door Prize - 50/50
Free Parking - 4 Rounds of Fun
*All Proceeds Benefit
Girls' & Women's Education

REGISTER ONLINE
MadisonAreaAAUW.org
Seating Limited