



Newsletter - January 2026 *Empowering Women since 1881*



President's Message

In thinking about what my New Year resolutions should be, I was stumped. But recently, I participated in a conversation with my discussion group on an interesting topic. Another member suggested we talk about, "What is the meaning of life," based upon a book by Viktor Frankl.

Dr. Frankl, a psychiatrist, now deceased, was an Auschwitz survivor. He was held at the Nazi concentration camp and tortured for four years. As far as he was

AAUW-NJ President's (Sharon Suber's) Note from EQUI{TEA}

"Rebecca Michelle "Mikie" Sherrill was elected Governor of New Jersey this (past) month, marking a historic milestone for our state. After 31 years, New Jersey has chosen its second female governor—a powerful reminder of the progress we continue to make. And with Sherrill and Abigail Spanberger (who will be the first woman to serve as Governor of Virginia) preparing to take office, the nation will see 14 women governors serving at the same time—the highest number in U.S. history.

concerned, there is no universal answer to the question. Based on his interactions with those in the camp, he decided that the answer is unique for each person. Each person has the responsibility to discover through action, love, and attitude, and especially by unavoidable suffering such as he suffered.

So, having learned about Dr. Frankl's theories, what did the members of our group think is the meaning of life? Some suggested that our life's purpose defines the meaning of life. In Dr. Frankl's case, his purpose was to survive from day to day. Another person's purpose might be to end hunger or help the next generation.

Another member found his answer in religious faith. Life's meaning is a reaffirmation that we are never burdened by more than we can handle. Thus, a single mother of multiple children would do anything necessary to protect her children.

Another perspective suggested that in order to find the meaning of life, we must learn to live in the moment. Once we appreciate that we cannot change the past, we are able to live in the moment.

A final suggestion on the meaning of life was that the answer can be found in why we were given life. Why were we put on this earth? Is it anything more complicated than to assure the birth of the next generation?

Well, all those interpretations did help me think about the meaning of my life, without resolution. So, at the start of another year, I resolve to be the best person I can be. That I will do.

Happy New Year everyone.

ANN HUBER,
President

As a past recipient of AAUW NJ's Woman as Agent of Change Award in 2021, Governor-elect Sherrill's victory is especially meaningful. Her journey is a testament to what is possible for every woman and girl in New Jersey who now sees a clear and reachable path to the highest levels of leadership. I am encouraged by her strong and vocal support for public education—a core AAUW priority—and I look forward to partnering with her administration to advance policies that strengthen women's economic security, equity, and health."

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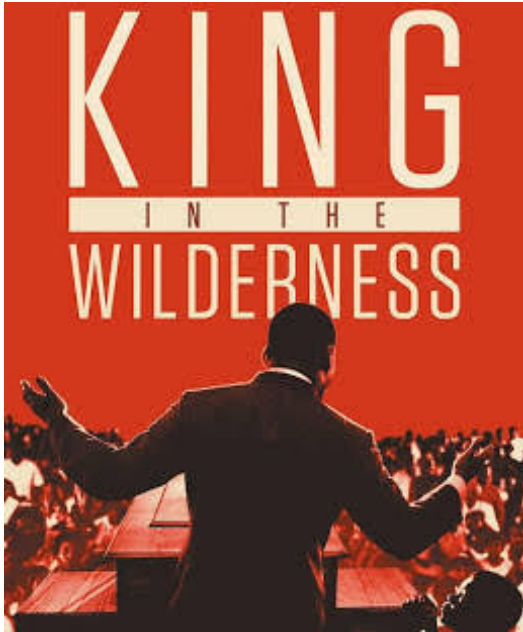
"Mikie Sherrill announced an ambitious and collaborative initiative to chart a bold course for New Jersey's future and ensure the Governor-elect's commitment to hit the ground running on Day One priorities. She is inviting direct public participation through a statewide

Transition Survey:

<https://njoit.prod.simpligov.com/prod/portal/ShowWorkflow/AnonymousEmbed/290648d9-76db-40e1-9fcd-5ce683c2b11d>

New Jersey residents are encouraged to share their ideas and priorities for the next administration.

The team is developing a transition process that emphasizes innovation, teamwork, and community involvement. They are asking those interested in joining the new administration to submit resumes online. We encourage all



REMINDER

JANUARY PROGRAM:

**SUNDAY, Jan 18,
2026 at 2PM**

Join us as we honor the life of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On that date, the Madison Branch of AAUW will be co-sponsoring the documentary with the Summit College Club (an AAUW branch) and the New Providence Memorial Library, at the Library,

"King In The Wilderness."

AAUW members who wish to be considered for employment or appointment to fill out **The Form**:

https://njoit.prod.simpligov.com/prod/portal/ShowWorkFlow/AnonymousEmbed/be5873e1-dcb5-4d7e-a9db-4fb9045b10ce?link_id=5&can_id=a75af26088866a76a6b96ab751113055&source=email-equitea-aauw-nj-september-2025-newsletter-2&email_referrer=email_3003278&email_subject=equitea-aauw-nj-novdec-2025-newsletter&&

THE BOOK CLUB



The AAUW Madison Area Branch Book Club, a Special Interest Group, holds hybrid meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 PM. Face to face discussions take place in the Chase Room of the Madison Public Library. New participants are always welcome!

This highly acclaimed film (100% on Rotten Tomatoes) looks at the final years in the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Following the film, Maureen Grant, Summit College Club member, will lead a Q & A.

The program is open to all and no prior reservations are required

Snow date: Jan 24, 2026
same location, same start time.

MAHJONGG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

We continue to meet to play mahjongg at Shirley's home on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, beginning at 11:30 am and continuing to 2:30 pm. Please feel free to bring your bagged lunch.

We are also happy gently to teach new players how to play. If interested in attending, please reach out to Shirley at rentatLBI@optonline.net

THANK YOU TO THE AAUW- NJ CHARITABLE TRUST

We extend our grateful appreciation to the AAUW/NJ

For more information, or to get on the email notification list, contact Marianne Belock at marianne.belock@gmail.com

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GENEROUS

AAUW-MADISON makes an annual donation of \$2,000 to the Tech Trek. The camp is free to our young students. This year Stockton U. is celebrating 10 years of the Tech Trek Camp. YOU can make your own deductible contribution to the "AAUWNJ Charitable Trust" at <https://aauwnj.org/charitable-trust/> which is a 501(3) c, by designating your donation for Tech Trek.

Contact Becky with questions at rmooddy9856@gmail.com

SHARE BY GIVING TO CFBNJ.ORG

"The Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ), a member of Feeding America®, is the leading anti-hunger and anti-poverty organization in the

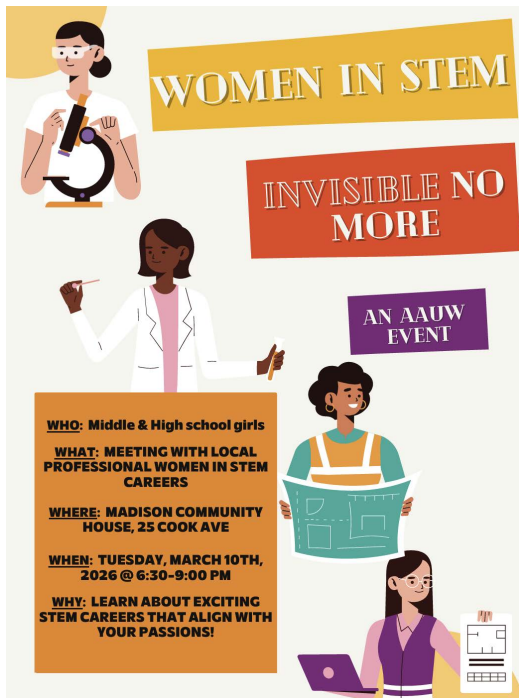
Charitable Trust which has once again approved the Madison Branch application for a grant to help fund our popular biannual program **"Speed Dating in STEM"**.

This year's program is scheduled for March 10th, 2026.

state." Women and girls are disproportionately affected by food insecurity,

IN MEMORIAM

A Memorial Service for Barbara Brack Lewis is being planned for Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 10 am at the United Methodist Church, 24 Madison Ave., Madison



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