AAUW
Madison Area (NJ) Branch

Improving Women's Lives Since 1929

Newsletter November 2026



President's Message

AAUW's year is off to a great start. In September, we talked with a number of people and sold some books at our Farmers' Market table. Many thanks to Anita Codey for organizing our Bottle Hill Day booth in October and to all who volunteered. Many people stopped by our booth to chat and to sign up for our raffle. Just two days later, we held our annual Meet & Greet featuring the recipients of our Mature Women's grants and Tech Trek Campers.

Many thanks to Peggy Philp and the Grant Committee and to Beth Krawczuk who is STEM chair. Our latest event was another successful Mah Jongg fundraiser. Thanks to Ann Huber and the many volunteers including Nina Hallgren who payed the role of Tournament Director.

Our other good news is that we have several new members. I would like to help grow the organization to be able to maintain and expand our grant and teen STEM activities and to offer a variety of new activities as well. Our program chairs are working hard and are always happy to hear suggestions about future program ideas. Going forward, we are looking to provide a balance of daytime and evening programs, in-person and remote programs, as well as serious topics and social gatherings for the membership.

MARSHA GEPFORD

Nov. 3, 2026!!!!
ELECTION DAY
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Early Voting is open at Hartley Dodge
10am to 8pm Monday - Saturday 10/24
through 10am to 6pm on Sunday 11/1

<u>November 9, 2026 at 7PM</u> - ALL WELCOME
Virtual Program



The Fight for the Right to Vote
Presented by the Liberty Hall Museum

Explore the history of the women's suffrage campaign through the eyes of Liberty Hall's ladies.

- Discover how anti-suffragette movements worked to prevent the passage of the 19th amendment.
- Learn how the abolitionist movement of the 1860s inspired the suffrage movement of the early 20th century.
- Enjoy this lively talk filled with images, documents, and stories from inspiring and trailblazing women.
- Presented by an educator from Liberty Hall Museum located in Union, NJ.

To Join Zoom Meeting - go to:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85609552436pwd=aC5Nokz5mu10HBZqUKoXfo4HKx1LHc.1

Meeting ID: 856 0955 2436
Passcode: 260957

About Liberty Hall Museum

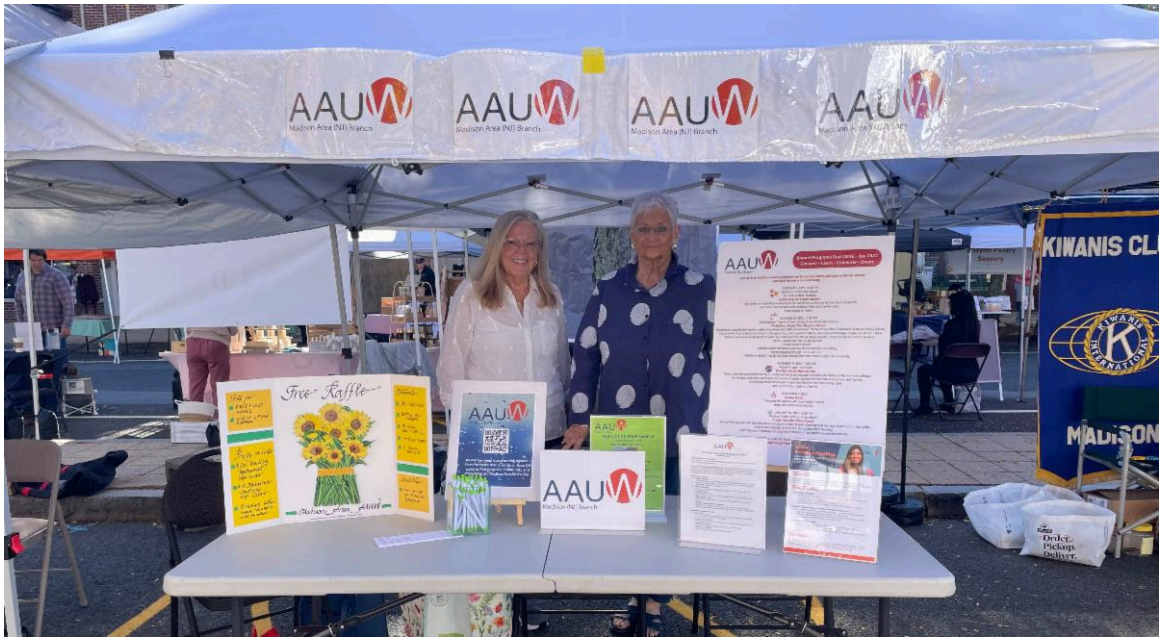
Liberty Hall stands at the center of the American Revolution and academic excellence. Home to trailblazing governors, congressmen, senators, assembly persons, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs, its plush gardens have spurred civic change and

social innovation for centuries. Inhabited by William Livingston, New Jersey's first elected governor and a signer of the United States Constitution, the 14-room Georgian-style home evolved over time into a 50-room Victorian mansion.

Visit **https://libertyhall.kean.edu/** to learn more about Liberty Hall Museum.

Susan Mennella and Ruth Zowader, Program Co-Chairs

BOTTLE HILL DAY
OCTOBER 3, 2026



From L to R: Donna Conley and Anita Codey, holding the fort at the AAUW table at Bottle Hill Day.

Many people stopped by to ask questions or to try their luck at the raffle organized by Anita Codey.

MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT TOOK PLACE on MONDAY OCT. 19TH

What did it take to pull off a successful Mah Jongg tournament and fundraiser?

52 experienced Mah Jongg players
52 pre-printed score sheeets
52 pens
13 Mah Jongg sets
12 AAUW volunteers
13 bridge tables
5 long tables
72 bagel quarters
128 oz. of coffee
128 oz. of cold water
60 cans of soda
48 mini sandwiches
16 wraps
2 green salads
5 doz. cookies and brownies
2 score keepers
4 door prizes
10 cash prizes
1 Tournament Director
1 very accommodating Madison Community Arts Center Manager

And a very good time was had by all!!

Next tournament is May 17th!!
SAVE THE DATE - PLAY OR VOLUNTEER

Ann Huber, Chair



The AAUW Madison Mah Jongg Game, a Special Interest Group, meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Thank you to Eileen Ryan for hosting the October game. The next game will meet on Monday Nov. 9th and Nov. 23 at 11:30 - please feel free to bring a bag lunch. We will be playing at the Mutchlers' home.

Wanted: those wishing to learn how to play Mah Jongg. We are happy to teach new players. Please join us.

For more info, email Shirley at: rentatLBI@optonline.net.

Shirley Mutchler

MEET AND GREET OCTOBER 5th

We introduced four Grant recipients to our members and guests at a very successful Meet and Greet on October 5th . These are all amazing women! They told us about their backgrounds and their future goals. Unfortunately, Lauren DeCuir, whose Grant was named in memory of our former member, Misty Kramer, was unable to attend but a few of her family members joined us to honor Misty's memory.

A light supper was enjoyed by all as we met new people and refreshed old friendships.

Many thanks to to the Members of the Grant Committee are Nicole Bearce, Jeanne Eisele, Betty Anne Keat, Eileen Meighan, Nancy Napolitano, Jodi Zwain.

Peggy Philp, Chair



Above: Beth Krawczuk with s couple of her STEM campers and aluma.

Below: L to R, Peggy Philp, Eileen Meighan, Rebecca Karger, Rachel Reinhart, Denyse Ignacio, Katherine Kurylko, Jean Eisele, Nancy Napolitano

Photos by Donna Conley



MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY
is hosting an event

About the Investigative Genetic Genealogy Center at Ramapo College

(*Virtual Program*)

Thursday, November 12th @ 7:00 PM

Learn about the Investigative Genetic Genealogy Center at Ramapo College from Tracie Boyle AIGG, a professional genetic genealogist and Director of Case Management at the Center. The vision of the Center is to secure justice through the ethical and

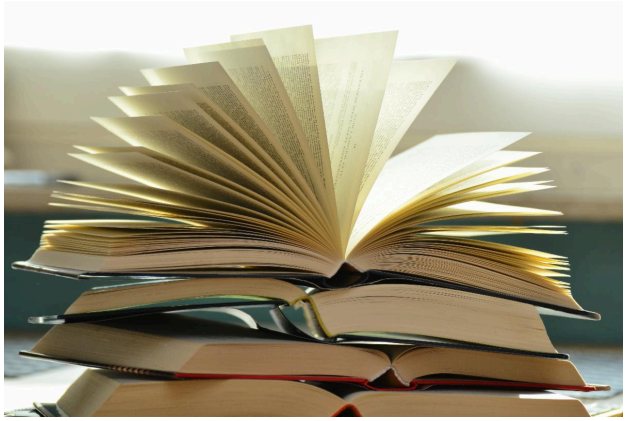
proficient use of investigative genetic genealogy. Ms. Boyle will share the Center's capabilities and services, including some of the more memorable cases to which the Center has contributed. There will be time at the end for Q&A.

This program is co-presented by the Bloomingdale Public Library and the Morris County Library. If you have any questions, please contact the Morris County Library at **973-285-6930**

Register at:

https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsExtended.cfmSiteID=1689&EventID=601532&PK=

Ruth Zowader, Program Co-chair



The AAUW Branch Book discussion group's next book is *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan. We usually meet on the second Wednesday of the month, but due to several scheduling conflicts in November, we will meet on the **THIRD Wednesday**, instead.

Here are the details for the upcoming meeting:

Time: NOV. 18., 2026, at 1:00 PM
Location: Madison Library, Large Conference Room

Suggested Discussion Questions will be emailed in advance.

Please note that no food is allowed in the room.

The meeting will be available on Zoom.

Happy reading!

Marianne Belock, Book Club Chair

SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday, March 16, 2027
6:30–9:00 pm
at the Madison Community House.
Help Us Inspire the Next Generation:
Volunteers Needed for our Women in STEM Night

Our **Women in STEM** event brings middle and high school girls together with women working and studying in science, technology, engineering, and math for small, rotating group conversations. The girls get to ask candid questions and hear firsthand how real women built their careers - the kind of encouragement that can change a young person's sense of what's possible.

The buzz is already building. We promoted the event at the Madison Farmers Market and Bottle Hill Day, and the response was wonderful - lots of students and professionals stopped to ask about it.

Now we'd love your help to keep that momentum going and make this our best STEM night yet.

How you can help before the event:
• Donate individually packed snacks and drinks
• Donate a cute notebook and pen set for each girl to use for notes and networking details
• Donate nice takeaway gifts for the professional women

How you can help on the evening: About **3 people** needed

• Welcome guests at the door and help them sign in
• Make name tags as attendees arrive
• Keep time for the conversation sessions and give us a heads-up when it's time to rotate

If we want to create a committee for this, we could meet in January - over Zoom or email - to discuss any details. Email me!

It's a fun, energizing evening, and you'll get to see the girls light up as they connect with the women.

Know a woman in STEM? Or are you one?
We're looking for professionals at every stage: college students, recent graduates, seasoned professionals, and retirees.

If you know someone who might like to participate, please send her my way or share the event details:
https://madisonareaaauw.org/women-in-stem-event.
To volunteer or refer a speaker, contact Beth at **bstuehler@gmail.com**.

Beth Stuehler Krawczuk, Chair

SAVE THE DATE

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 12/7/26

Volunteers Wanted:

Mary Kay Joyce has graciously invited us to her home in Chatham for a holiday luncheon and gathering on Monday, December 7 at noon. Lunch will be catered. We need a committee of one, two or three people to research catering options, determine the menu, and order the food.

To volunteer, please email or call Marsha
marsha.gepford@gmail.com or **201-650-8541** .

Marsha Gepford, President



Please welcome our newest members:

BECKY DIECKMANN

Becky is a returning member. I think most of you already know her. She was a past member and former president of the Madison Branch of AAUW. A graduate of Syracuse University, William Paterson, and Kean University, where she studied Anthropology and Special Education, Becky is now a retired special education teacher.

Becky is interested in education issues, mentoring, book club, and Mah jongg. She would also like to work on the mature women's grant and semi-annual Mah jongg Tournament committees.

Please reach out to her at: **becky.dieckermann@gmail.com**

MIGNON SCHRIEK

Mignon, who goes by "Midge," graduated from Indiana University and Texas A&M, majoring in Animal Science and Zoology (Molecular Biology). Her areas of interest are Education, Book Club, Status of Women and STEM. Midge would like to offer her expertise in the STEM programs. She could be very helpful in promoting scientific fields to the young women.

Please reach to her at: **myn13080@gmail.com**

FRANCINE STERN

Francine Stern is the new Museum Director of the Madison Historical Society which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2027. In the meantime, as a Museum Management Professional, she is preoccupied with renovation of the 2nd floor of the East Wing of the Hartley Dodge Memorial, working with content writers, exhibit creators and builders, and graphic artists. Fran is a graduate of The George Washington University with a Masters in Museum Studies and a Bachelor's from Washington University in Anthropology. She previously worked at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and the American Museum of Natural History, both in NYC.

Fran is interested in developing educational programs for children. They are never too young to learn about AAUW.

Please reach out to her at: **francinestern99@gmail.com**

Sheri Anderson, Chair

IMPORTANT DATES

Committee Chairs: Deadline for newsletter articles for next newsletter - Nov. 17th - day after the Board Meeting

Future Board Meetings: 11/16, 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17 and 6/21