



February Newsletter 2025 Empowering Women since 1881



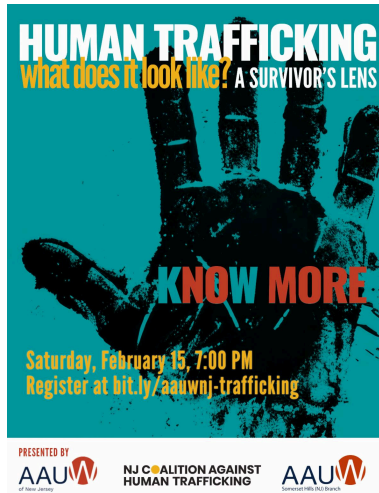
## President's Message

When the results of the election were announced, I made a decision to stop listening to the news and stop following social media. Instead, I would bury my head in the sand. However, that has been a difficult thing to do. By January 20, it had been determined that Trump had been actually elected by a slim majority. If we look at the incontrovertible numbers, he won a majority of electoral college votes with less than 50% of the popular vote; only 1% more than Harris. Were it not for the slim majority in the House and Senate, our democracy would protect us. But it is being challenged every day.

Faster than anyone expected, the new administration was poised to make immediate changes through Executive Orders which bypass Congress. One of the first Orders started a war on gender equality by erasing gender recognition and rolling back diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. These actions directly impact women and AAUW's mission.

It seems I cannot bury my head in the sand. There are many who are taking action by challenging some of the unconstitutional Orders, filing suit, and others are already organizing voters. There are 3 seats vacated by some nominees. Mid-term election in less than 2 years.

We all need to be part of the efforts to restore democracy. Don't lose heart. Like our motto says: Empowering Women since 1881. AAUW has been at this task for more than 100 years. This is just a temporary setback.  
Ann Huber



AAUW NJ, in partnership with the Somerset Hills branch and the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking presents Human Trafficking: what does it look like? A survivor's lens, this Saturday, February 15 2025 at 7 PM EST via Zoom.

Please join us to learn about human trafficking in New Jersey, and the realities of it from the perspective of a lived-experience expert.

## AAUW WINTER MEMBER GATHERING

For those of you who could not register to attend AAUW's Winter Member Gathering on Wednesday, February 5th. The recording is now available:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PDN1kZsNXQ>



"As we honor Black History Month in 2025, we are witnessing an alarming push to dismantle essential programs across workplaces, schools, and government institutions—programs designed to ensure that women and men of color have equal access to opportunities, resources, and protections.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs have their roots in the Civil Rights Movement, emerging as a response to centuries of discrimination and exclusion. Affirmative action, equal employment opportunity initiatives, along with workplace diversity programs were developed to break down systemic barriers and create pathways for marginalized communities including women and men of color, white women, and other historically marginalized people.

Yet, instead of addressing real issues, opponents of diversity and inclusion are falsely blaming DEI for the recent Washington, D.C. plane crash—using fear to justify dismantling programs that benefit not only Black communities but also veterans, women of all races and ethnicities, people with disabilities, and others who are too often excluded. Black history is U.S history. And just as we celebrate the trailblazers who paved the way—from Harriet Tubman to Shirley Chisholm to John Lewis—we must also stand firm in defending their work and legacy today. Rolling back DEI is an attempt to erase hard-won progress and silence the fight for justice. This month, let's commit to protecting the future. Speak out against the attacks on DEI. Support organizations fighting for racial and gender equity. DEI is not a trend—it is a necessity."

Zakiya Thomas\*

President & CEO ERA Coalition and ERA Coalition Forward

Ms. Thomas is a professor at Georgetown University Law Center and is also a licensed social worker.



## FEBRUARY PROGRAM POSTPONED

New Date: 3/27/25 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
New Providence Memorial Library

For those of you who may have missed the news, we were scheduled to join the Summit College Club for an enlightening discussion about Why Literacy Matters. There were 3 speakers scheduled to join us at the Library of the Chathams.



## FIELD TRIP

### March 4th, 2025

Join us for a behind-the-scenes tour at the **Thomas H. Kean Theatre Factory** at the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey on Tues., March 4th 2025 at 11:00am at **3 Vreeland Road Florham Park** (not at Drew U).

Program Description: Located in Florham Park, NJ, this 50,000 sq. ft. site is, simultaneously, an interactive museum; work of art; teaching tool; and actual workspace for scores of theatre artists. See how a play goes from page to stage, from beginning to end and experience the tour and building that never fail to amaze visitors.

Preferred registration method : <https://aauwmadisonnj.square.site/shakespeare-factory-tour>. \$21.00 pp includes online payment service charge.

How to pay by check: Mail a check for \$20.00 made payable to Madison AAUW Branch to: Becky Moody, Treas., **15 Page Street, Madison, NJ 07940**.

Be sure to include name of each individual attending, email address and phone number.

**SIGN UP** by February 25, 2025

**Special Note:** Some members may go for a casual lunch after the tour at a local restaurant. It will be an impromptu decision as to where we eat. All are welcome!



Madison Area AAUW Book group meets the second Wednesday of the month starting at 1PM. All meetings are hybrid. Occasionally, book titles, hosts and dates change. Contact [smennella@verizon.net](mailto:smennella@verizon.net) to add your name to the book group email list.

**New participants welcome!**

Upcoming meeting date noted below:

March 12th at 1PM *The Vaster Wilds* by Lauren Groff - Host TBA & via Zoom



## SAVE THE DATE

### APRIL PROGRAM

**April 7, 2025, at 7PM,**

Topic: Maasai Girls  
Fund: Transforming The Lives of African Girls.

Maasai Girls Fund is a public charity founded in 2015 by Paul Mantell and Avery Hart. The Fund's mission is to save Maasai girls from genital cutting and forced child marriage by paying for their education at highly-rated boarding schools, while at the same time providing basic needs and emergency help to their home villages.

Visit <https://maasaigirlsfund.org/> to learn more about the organization.

## NEXT BOOK SALE

### MAY 3, 2025

**BOOKS WANTED**  
4/15-17/2025  
**DONATIONS\***  
@ the YMCA - Kings Rd. Madison  
@ the FM Kirby Ctr - East St. Madison  
*Please NO magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks, or damaged books*  
*\*large donation - call 973-476-2751*  
info: [AauwMadisonNJ@gmail.com](mailto:AauwMadisonNJ@gmail.com)



## REGISTRATION

### STARTS 3/15/25

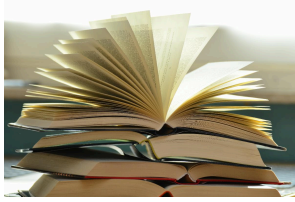
## AAUW'S NEXT

### MAHJONG

### TOURNAMENT

### MAY 15TH 2025

**CHECK WEBSITE FOR**  
**DETAILS:**  
**[MadisonAreaAAUW.org](http://MadisonAreaAAUW.org)**



## AAUW Mature Woman's Grants

(American Association of University  
Women)

Are you returning to school,  
or do you know someone

who is? AAUW is accepting  
applications for their Mature  
Woman's Grant Program.

Requirements are as  
follows:

1. . Must be a woman
2. . Must be age 25 or over
3. . Must be a resident of the following NJ towns: Chatham, Chatham Township, East Hanover, Florham Park, Harding Township, Madison, Morristown, Morris Township, Morris Plains, or Randolph Township.
4. . Must use the grant for education-related expenses incurred in pursuit of a degree or certification.

Download the application at our website:

<https://madisonareaaauw.org/mature-womans-grant>

**DEADLINE:** Grant applications must be received by  
**Monday, April 4, 2025.**

Please direct any questions to our email account:

[aauwgrant@hotmail.com](mailto:aauwgrant@hotmail.com)