



Newsletter - December 2025 *Empowering Women since 1881*



President's Message

As the rest of the country, so it seemed, was preoccupied with the Epstein files, I came across this very interesting article.

"On this Veterans Day, we honor all who have served our country, and with special recognition for the women whose courage, leadership, and trailblazing achievements have strengthened our armed forces.

Women were first able to officially join the U.S. military in 1948, when President Harry Truman signed the Women's Armed Service Integration Act,

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Please join us on Monday, December 8, 2025 (sorry Mahjong players) at noon, as we celebrate another holiday season.

We will be gathering at the Huber Home for a catered lunch from Firehouse Italian Restaurant & Pizza of Madison. The price includes:
Appy: Tomato Caprese Salad, Eggplant Rolanitini,
Pasta: Rigatoni Bolognese,
Entree: Chicken Milanese
Dessert: Surprise!!

granting them permanent status. Since then, women have broken barrier after barrier — serving in combat roles, rising through the ranks, and making history at every level of leadership. Today, women make up 17.5% of active-duty personnel, representing every branch of service.

Despite these milestones, women remain underrepresented in military leadership. Since the beginning of the Trump administration, many of the military's top-ranking female officers have been removed from their positions, including Adm. Linda Fagan, the first woman to lead the U.S. Coast Guard. Officials cited an "excessive focus on diversity programs," undermining decades of progress and limiting role models for the next generation.

Today on Veterans Day, let us honor women veterans not only by recognizing their historic service but by standing up for equality and leadership opportunities in the military." *

ANN HUBER,
President

*The ERA Coalition Team



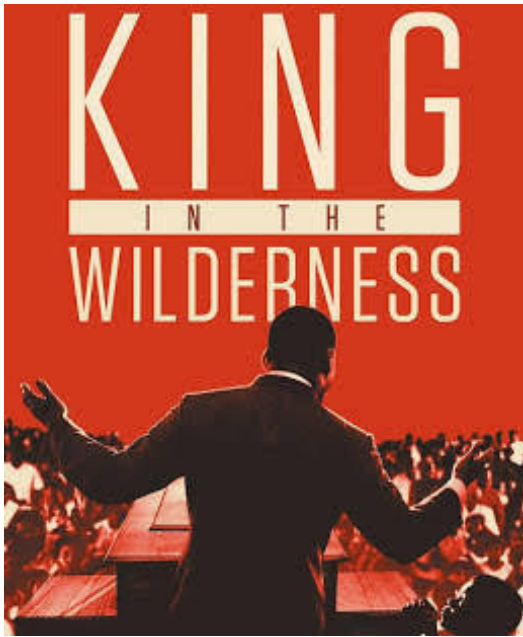
Advance registration required
at MadisonAreaAAUW.org
\$27 pp. incl. bank fee
OR

Mail your check for \$25 to
Becky Moody, [15 Page St.,
Madison, NJ 07940](#)

RSVP no later than **12/5/2025**,
please, pretty please.

MERCI BEAUCOUP,
LYNN FAVREAU

On behalf of the entire
membership of the
AAUW Madison
Area Branch, thank you
Lynn for a well presented
and informative November
program! All of the
feedback received was quite
favorable. Kudos to you and
your staff for dealing with
all the renovation work



**JANUARY
PROGRAM: SUNDA
Y, 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."

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,

surprises and creating a public library space that will serve the needs of the community in the 21st century.

The tour after your presentation was also a special treat!

**MAHJONGG
TOURNAMENT
FALL, 2025 REPORT**

It took an army of volunteers and 35 majongg players to pull off a magnificent day. We played four rounds of four games each, at break-neck speed. It was worth it. We attracted our biggest crowd yet and managed to raise a good bit of money for the Mature Women's Grants and STEM programs. We even had a player volunteer to be timekeeper, General Nina.

The competition was fierce as is evident from the results. A difference of 10 points which separated the first three finishers is the smallest gap possible in the scoring.

1st Amanda Karboski, 275
2nd Stephanie Koren, 265
3rd Linda Schuler, 255 points.

And, in a twist of fate, Amanda also won the Door Prize, a

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.



Welcome our newest member Anita Codey from Berkeley Heights. Anita is an educator, having taught, been a principal and assistant superintendent.

Anita has offered to teach us Royal Siamese Mahjong (look it up). She also has special skills in fundraising and calligraphy! We could really use those skills.

You can reach Anita at gradycodey@gmail.com

mahjongg set!

Mark your calendars : next Tournament is already scheduled for May 27, 2026.



From Left to Right, Stephanie Koren, Amanda Karboski, Linda Schuler. Winners of the AAUW-Madison Mahjongg Tournament, 11/17/25, at the Madison Community Arts Center (photo below)





As we welcome a new member, we say a final good bye to another, Aldona J. Skrypa.

Aldona, a resident of Florham Park, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at the the age of 91. Her remarkable journey through life, marked by resilience, intellect, and compassion, leaves an indelible legacy that will be cherished by all who knew her.

In a press release issued by our branch in 2003, when Aldona was selected as the AAUWNJ "Woman as Agents of Change," it was said she was also a former Madison Branch president from 1990-94 and was a past state EF Chair. Aldona was a remarkable woman who survived WWII in Europe and triumphed here in the US. May she rest in peace.

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!

When Book Group meets next time, on Wednesday, December 10th, they will discuss *"Everything is Tuberculosis"* by author, John Green.

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

LOOKING AHEAD, SAVE THE DATE FOR A PROGRAM ON MARCH 2, 2025

Date: Mon March 2, 2026, at
7PM

Place: Chase Room, Madison
Public Library
Program Title:

*The Power of One Voice:
Advocating for Children in
Foster Care*



**WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY
THANKSGIVING FILLED WITH
FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GENEROUS

AAUW-MADISON makes an annual donation of \$2,000 to the Tech Trek camp which is free to our young students. 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 moody9856@gmail.com

SHARE BY GIVING TO [CFBNJ.ORG](https://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 state." Women and girls are disproportionately affected by food insecurity,