AAUW
Madison Area (NJ) Branch

Improving Women's Lives Since 1929

Newsletter September 2026



President's Message

I want to thank Ann Huber for her leadership as our Branch President for the past three years. Ann reimagined the Book Sale after it had to leave St. Elizabeth's, started our very successful Mah Jongg Tournament fundraisers, and welcomed us into her home for social occasions as well as book sorting and storage. Ann will continue as the Newsletter Editor. Thank you Ann!

As the new President, I am excited about the coming year. We have a full calendar of fall events coming up, starting with the event at the Shakespeare Theater on September 14*. We will have a table at the Farmers' Market on Saturday September 19th. Volunteers for the table will be needed. October will bring our Bottle Hill Day booth on October 3 and our traditional Meet and Greet Pizza Party with our Mature Women's Grant awardees and Tech Trek campers on October 5.

I would like to work together with every member, not just to sustain our membership, but to grow in our mission of supporting equity for women and girls.

*Subject to change.

MARSHA GEPFORD

Volunteer opportunities for "**Tabling at the Craft and Farm Market Sept. 19th, 9 to 2**" are now open.
Please copy the following web link into your web browser to go to the signup sheet:
volunteersignup.org/LW9DQ
To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do.
Thank you for volunteering!

MAH JONGG

REPORT 2026 TECH TREK - SLEEP AWAY STEM CAMP- OUR FUNDRAISING AT WORK

Every summer I look forward to attending the Professional Women's Night at Tech Trek and this year was no exception. For those who may not know, Tech Trek is a week-long sleepaway STEM camp held at Stockton University in Galloway (south Jersey near Atlantic City), run in partnership with AAUW. It brings rising eighth-grade girls to campus to stay in the dorms and spend their days doing hands-on STEM activities alongside women mentors and role models. This year 42 girls attended, representing 20 of New Jersey's 21 counties. It's the camp's 11th year, and apart from the few years it was cancelled during COVID, I've been lucky enough to attend every Professional Women's Night.

This year, Judy Vernon, Marianne Belock, and I had the pleasure of interviewing two wonderful girls from Morris County who were chosen to attend. And two of our campers from last year came back for the alumni event, helping this year's girls get settled and kick off the week. This is a wonderful reminder of how the experience carries forward. We've had many campers, from Morris County, return to camp as alumni mentors for many years now.

Professional Women's Night itself is held near the end of the week, once the girls are mostly through their busy days of workshops, from a chemistry lab for slime and boba tea to forensic evidence collection to astronautics, AI, medicine, robotics and more! During the evening, women working across science, technology, engineering, and math enjoy a wonderful dinner and dessert with the girls while we talk about our careers and share our journeys. There's networking, mentorship, and a keynote speaker to cap it off.

So many of the girls share with us that the camp has already given them the confidence, inspiration, and support to chase their dreams. By the time Professional Women's Night arrives, whatever shyness or nervousness we saw in the interviews has vanished. I love that I get to see how much they have bonded and how much fun they are having.

I absolutely love going to Professional Women's Night. These sophisticated, smart young women motivate and inspire me probably more than I inspire them.I can't wait to catch back up with our Morris County campers to hear what they thought of the whole week.

BETH KRAWCZUK, WEBMASTER*

*See photos below.





GRANTS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2026 WINNERS

The 2026 Mature Women's Grants Committee has been hard at work for the past 8 months developing an application, advertising, and reviewing the submissions. They have now reached consensus on the five women who will receive one of the 5 grants being awarded - one in memory of our long time member, Misty Kramer and funded by her friends and relations; four grants will be funded by the members of AAUW, Madison area. Here they are:



LAUREN DeCUIR
Misty Kramer Memorial Grant

Undergraduate, FDU
Course of Study: Health Science



REBECCA KARGER

Rutgers University
Graduate School for Special Education, Students with Disabilities





RACHEL REINHART

University of Rhode Island
Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences

DENYSE IGNACIO

Columbia University School of Professional Studies
Certificate Program for Narrative Medicine



KATHERINE KURYLKO

New York University Graduate School
for Archives and Public History

CONGRATULATIONS! to our Grantees and to every member of the Mature Women's Grant Committee for their excellent work.



The AAUW Book Group, Special Interest Group, took a hiatus in August. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th at 1:00 PM to discuss Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo. The Book Group meets at the Madison Public Library.

For the rest of this calendar year we will be reading
- September: *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo
- October: *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright
- November (Suggested): *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan
- December (Suggested): *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans

A number of people have expressed an interest in an evening option. Looking ahead to 2027, we are considering



The AAUW Madison Mah Jongg Game, a Special Interest Group, meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month.The next game will meet on Monday August 24 at 11:30 - please feel free to bring a bag lunch. Location TBD.

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.

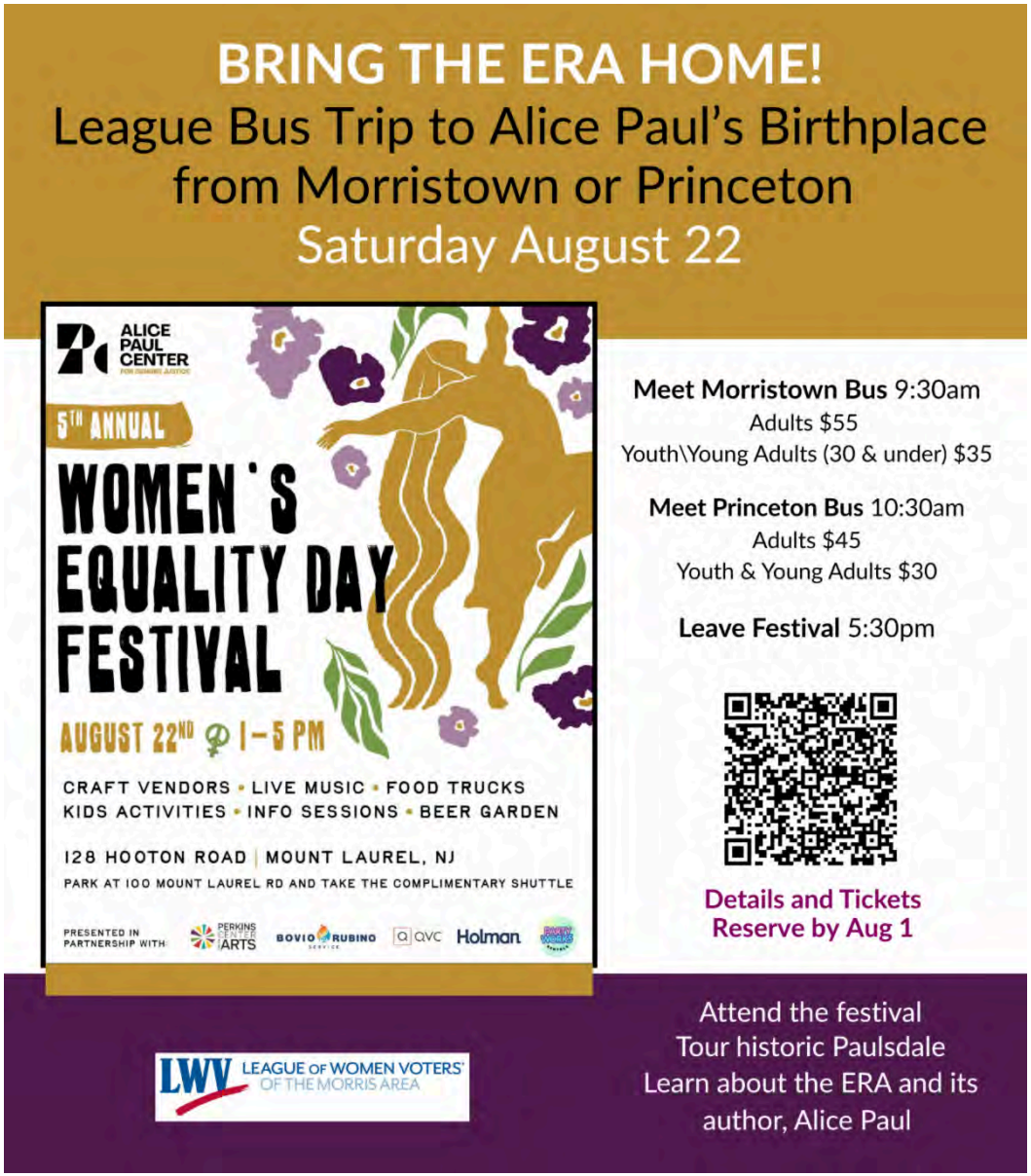
Shirley Mutchler

syncing the book selections for both groups, so that members have the option to attend either meeting if they miss one.

For more info, please email Marianne Belock@gmail.com



Shirley and others at last Spring's Mah Jongg Tournament See registration above



Greetings to All-

I think that I know most of you already, but in case you don't know me, I am a long time member of our Madison Branch and the President as of July 1st.

I want to share a wonderful opportunity to join the League of Women Voters Morris Area on a bus trip to the Women's Equality

Day Festival at the Alice Paul Birthplace in Mt. Laurel on Saturday **August 22**. See the above flyer for details. It sounds like a great day. Several of our members are signed up. I certainly wish I did not have a conflict for that date.

Please enjoy these summer days.

Best,
Marsha Gepford

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KICK OFF THE YEAR WITH AN OUTING TO THE SHAKESPEARE THEATER OF NJ

Join us for a special program as we kick off our 26/27 branch programming year with a play on September 14, 2026 at 7:30PM–Drew University Campus*. We will attend a reading at the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey entitled: *We Declare: Words that Shaped a Nation*. This is the fourth and final installment in Shakespeare Theater's Revolutionary Voices which celebrates our nation's 250th anniversary.

Enjoy a powerful theatrical journey through the speeches, poems, and proclamations from our nation's origin, *We Declare* brings to life the most influential and world-changing documents in American history. From the Declaration of Independence to the musings of prominent American luminaries, the event will feature two and a half centuries of diverse American voices, including Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Maya Angelou, Robert Frost, James Baldwin, and others. This engaging presentation reveals the drama, debate, and enduring impact behind the ideas that shaped the American experience.

Cost $42.50 per person (specially negotiated rate for our branch) – limited tickets left – contact Susan Mennella, if interested in attending, before September 1st. Subject to availability, additional tickets may be available from the theater. smennella@verizon.net or 201-424-1267

*We have been informed that this date may be changed by the Shakespeare Theater

AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference
September 25 - 27, 2026
3-Day Regional Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

UNFINISHED REVOLUTION
TOGETHER WE STAND

Lancaster, Pennsylvania is a wonderful city and one of America's oldest inland cities to date.
It served as Pennsylvania's capital from 1799 to 1812. It is full of history.

For your convenience, the elegant Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square is located on-site, integrated into the convention center facilities. The center is located in the middle of the city, walking distance to many restaurants, coffee shops, the Central Market, wineries, breweries, and shops. Additionally, Lancaster has a number of fall festivals during this time of year, which offer additional opportunities for exploration outside of the Regional Conference.

The Harrisburg International Airport is 30 miles from the location and there is an Amtrak station in Lancaster.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR MORE PROGRAMS BROUGHT TO US BY THE PROGRAM LADIES OF THE AAUW MADISON AREA BRANCH, RUTH ZOWADER AND SUSAN MENNELLA

October 5, 2026 at 6:30PM
Madison Community House, 25 Cook Avenue, Madison.

Join us for an inspirational evening as we welcome our Mature Women Grant winners & our Tech Trek Campers. More details to follow soon.

November 9, 2026 at 7PM Virtual Program via Zoom

Enjoy a fascinating historical presentation with a Liberty Hall Museum Educator from the comfort of your own home:

The Fight for the Right to Vote will 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.

December 7, 2026 Holiday Social

Watch for further details later in the fall.

January 18, 2027 at 2PM
Madison Public Library, Chase Room

Get ready to welcome the New Year by creating a vision board with Kara DeJesus. No artistic talent is needed. Relax and have fun while creating a vision board that shows what is important to you as well as your goals and dreams for 2027.

DATES AND PROGRAMS MAY BE CHANGED.



MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
AAUW Shapes the future Membership Campaign

We have been notified by AAUW-NJ that the Madison Branch is eligible for 2 free national memberships. The national membership portion of our dues is $76 and is otherwise, fully deductible. These memberships must be used by **October 31, 2026** and can be used for new members or to retain a current membership.

The free memberships must be submitted through the Redemption Form. If you know of someone who wants to join our Branch or any member who might benefit from the largely

reduced renewal fee, please contact Sheri Anderson, Chair, Madison Branch at sheria@optonline.net

Thank you Sheri Anderson!

HIDDEN FIGURES OF MADISON



Friends and family,

Join us on October 22, 2026, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm as community and state leaders gather for a special plaque unveiling ceremony. This permanent marker on the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail honors the historic 1964 Madison barbershop protests and the 1966 landmark NJ Supreme Court case, *Sellers v. Phillips Barbershop*. The main unveiling ceremony will take place at 3:00 pm., followed by a reception, 9 Main Street, Madison.

Email: madhiddenfigures@gmail.com
Phone: (908)-265-3210
Visit our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/HFOMNJ07940/
Website: http://www.hiddenfiguresmadison.org/
Instagram: @hiddenfiguresmadisonnj

IMPORTANT DATES

Committee Chairs: Deadline for newsletter articles for next newsletter - September 15, 2026

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2026



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