AAUW
Madison Area (NJ) Branch

Improving Women's Lives Since 1929

Newsletter October 2026



President's Message

The recent deaths of Gloria Steinem and Dolly Parton highlighted how much women have achieved in the last 50 years. Yet, the national news brings us almost daily reminders of efforts to roll back significant achievements, both legally and socially. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls. This mission is so important and relevant to our society today. I would like to see our Branch increase our membership so that we can continue and expand our support, particularly in the field of education. Please come to the Meet & Greet on Monday October 5 to hear from our Tech Trek campers and recipients of our Mature Women's Grants. There is no telling what we will hear or see as socialize and we munch on pizza and salad.

MARSHA GEPFORD

RSVP for the SUMMIT CLUB Fall Opening Luncheon INVITATION by September 19!

Hi Susan and Team,

We're excited to have Madison chapter members as part of our Luncheon again this year! I wanted to let you know that we have officially announced our speaker! Please see the details below and feel free to forward along to the rest of your chapter. Please emphasize that we would like RSVPs by Saturday, September 19th, if possible.

Keynote Speaker Announced! Patti Pfeifer, NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking

We are honored and excited to announce our luncheon speaker will be Patti Pfeifer, representing NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Patti will be speaking on the important work NJCAHT does every day, with a focus on their recent campaign around the **World Cup** games in New Jersey. **AAUWNJ** is a member of NJCAHT, represented by AAUW member Ginny Lyttle.
About: Patti Pfeifer, MA School Counseling, is a retired teacher with 36 years of experience. She is a member of the NJCAHT Operating Council Leadership Team, Speaker's Bureau, Education Committee, Law Enforcement Committee and is an Outreach Committee Co-Chair. In 2024 she was awarded an NJCAHT Service Award for Excellence and Dedication.

The event will take place at the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, NJ on September 27th from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Doors open at 12:00 pm. A lunch buffet is provided as part of the event (vegetarian options available). The luncheon will feature a speaker, as well as serve as a formal Summit College Club meeting where they will present and vote to approve the current year's budget.

Please RSVP by September 19 online or by check. Please make checks out to **Summit College Club** for $60 per ticket. Written RSVP and payment should be mailed to: Treasurer Lynne Rogerson at **62 Hobart Avenue**, Summit 07901. Guests are welcome. please include your contact info and indicate that you are a member of the Madison Branch and provide any other guest's name so that name tags can be provided.

RSVP click: https://www.summitcollegeclub.org/events/fall-opening-luncheon-at-baltusrol-golf-club

If you have any questions, please email **summit.college.club@gmail.com** or reach out to Brooke Luger directly via phone **(206.390.3256**) or email (**brooke.m.hubbard@gmail.com**).

BOTTLE HILL DAY
OCTOBER 3, 2026

As we have for many of the past years, AAUW will be hosting a booth for Bottle Hill Day. Please join us for this signature Madison, NJ event which

attracts some 15,000 friends and neighbors from Madison and surrounding communities. We are celebrating the 51st year of the street fair which offers vendors, food stalls, multiple bands, and so much fun. Please join us for Bottle Hill Day 2026 on Saturday, October 3. The theme for this year's event will be "Celebrating America's 250th".

Please stop by our booth, which is usually on Waverly Place in mid-block. Better yet, sign up to spend an hour or two at the booth. This year we will feature drawings to win gift cards for local establishments. Sign up at volunteersignup.org/C79JE

Thank you for volunteering. We cannot do it without you.

MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT MONDAY OCT. 19TH

Registration is going well as we approach the deadline of October. 12, 2026. Now it is time to gear up for the tournament. Volunteers are needed for what has become our best fundraiser - NO MAH JONGG EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

Please sign up at volunteersignup.org/RRLRM

Next tournament is May 17th!!



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 September 28 at 11:30 - please feel free to bring a bag lunch. Location TBA.

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

Meet our Grant Winners AND hear from some girls we sponsored at Tech Trek! YOU helped raise money through our Book Sales and Mah-jongg tournaments. Now see how it was used.

Join us on October 5th at 6:30 PM at the Madison Community House, 25 Cook Avenue, for a light pizza and salad supper. Please feel free to bring a dessert to share. Refresh AAUW friendships and meet our winners!

LAUREN DeCUIR RESIDES IN MADISON. Lauren has received a Named Grant in memory of Misty Kramer. She is an Undergraduate Student at

Fairleigh Dickinson University. Lauren is studying Health Science and wants to become a diagnostic medical sonographer, combining patient care with technical skill.

REBECCA KARGER RESIDES IN MORRISTOWN. Rebecca is in the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers and is completing the Alternate Route to Teaching. She wants to work with Special Education students with Disabilities.

RACHEL REINHART RESIDES IN MORRIS PLAINS. Rachel is working toward a Master's degree at the University of Rhode Island. She is pursuing a track in Information Equity, Diverse Communities and Critical Librarianship.

DENYSE IGNACIO RESIDES IN FLORHAM PARK. Denyse is working toward a Certificate of Professional Achievement at Columbia University. She wants to build a Narrative Medicine practice.

KATHERINE KURYLKO RESIDES IN EAST HANOVER. Katherine's course of study toward a Master's degree at New York University is in Archives and Public History. She wants to make museums and family history more accessible to disabled community members.

Deadline to register is **September 30th** ...
click on our website **https://aauwmadisonnj.square.site/meet-and-greet** or by sending a check made out to Madison Branch AAUW for $20.00 to our treasurer, Becky Moody, at 15 Page Street, Madison. If you would like to donate to the cost of a guest(s) attending you can include that with your reservation. Paying for a guest is optional and a personal decision.

Hope to see you all there!!



The AAUW Branch Book discussion group will meet on October 14th at 1:00pm to discuss The Rent Collector by Camron Wright.

The meeting will be at the Madison Library with a link to Zoom.

Happy reading!

Marianne Belock

MORRISTOWN

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

OCTOBER 9 & 10 2026

The Keynote Fundraiser Event will take place on **Friday, October 9, 2026, 7:30pm**, at Mayo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $68 (MPAC All-In pricing) and include a signed hardcover copy of ***The American Way of Killing***.

The Keynote Fundraiser Event helps underwrite the remarkable free offerings of the all-day Saturday Festival, which features the

opportunity to interact with scores of authors. Please consider an additional donation to further support their cause.

Gladwell will visit Morristown just days after the publication of his highly anticipated and most urgent book yet: a provocative investigation of America's epidemic of gun violence. Join them for an in-depth conversation about ***The American Way of Killing: The Invention of an Epidemic***, which explores the American "peculiarity"—how the world's wealthiest country came to suffer from a problem typically only seen in the world's poorest countries. Join them for this timely and vital discussion with one of the great thinkers of our time.

Tickets Are Nearly Sold Out - Get Your Seats Today:

Mayoarts.org/shows/morristown-festival-of-books-keynote-event-an-evening-with-malcolm-gladwell/

NEW DATE FOR THE SHAKESPEARE THEATER OF NJ

The Shakespeare Theater of NJ has informed us that they need to change the date of the play reading, *We Declare: Words that Shaped a Nation.* **The new date is Mon, Oct 26th at 7:30PM.** This is the fourth and final installment in Shakespeare Theater's Revolutionary Voices which celebrates our nation's 250th anniversary.

A full refund will be offered to anyone who cannot make the new date. Our treasurer, Becky Moody will issue checks. Please respond back to **both** Becky and Susan to let them know if you will be attending or would like a refund. Their emails are noted below. Summit members please

include your mailing address if you would like a refund. Additional tickets are available.

On behalf of The Shakespeare Theater of NJ & the Madison Area AAUW we apologize for any inconvenience caused by this date change.

Respond back to **smennella@verizon.net** and **r moody9856@gmail.com**

AAUW
Madison (NJ) Branch

Branch Programs Sept 2026 - Jan 2027
Connect • Learn • Celebrate • Create

Join us for an exciting season of programs, performances, history, and opportunities to connect with other women in our community!



OCTOBER 5, 2026 • 6:30 PM
Madison Community House
25 Cook Avenue, Madison
Celebrating Our Future Leaders
Join us for an inspirational evening as we welcome our Mature Women Grant recipients and Tech Trek campers and celebrate their accomplishments.
More details to follow.



OCTOBER 26, 2026 • 7:30 PM
Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, Drew University Campus
We Declare: Words That Shaped a Nation
Experience a special play reading celebrating America's 250th anniversary. The fourth and final installment of Revolutionary Voices, this powerful theatrical journey brings to life speeches, poems, proclamations, and voices that helped shape our nation — from Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin to Harriet Beecher Stowe, Maya Angelou, Robert Frost, and James Baldwin.
Special AAUW rate: $42.50 per person
Limited tickets remain!
Contact Susan Mennella if you are still interested in attending.
smennella@verizon.net • 201-424-1267
Additional tickets may be available directly from the theater, subject to availability.



NOVEMBER 9, 2026 • 7:00 PM
Virtual Program via Zoom
The Fight for the Right to Vote
Enjoy a fascinating presentation by a Liberty Hall Museum educator exploring the history of the women's suffrage movement. Learn how suffragists and anti-suffragists battled over the 19th Amendment and how the abolitionist movement helped inspire the fight for women's voting rights.
Join us from the comfort of home!



DECEMBER 7, 2026
Holiday Social
Celebrate the season with your AAUW friends!
Watch for details later this fall.



JANUARY 18, 2027 • 2:00 PM
Madison Public Library • Chase Room
Create Your 2027 Vision Board
Kick off the new year with Kara DeJesus and create a vision board reflecting what matters most to you — your goals, dreams, and aspirations for 2027. No artistic talent required!
Just bring your creativity and enjoy an afternoon of fun, inspiration, and connection.

WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US! More info at www.madisonareaaauw.org
Madison Area AAUW • Empowering Women • Building Community • Inspiring Change



Please welcome new member Jennifer Lazor from Morristown. Jennifer is graduate of Rutgers Law School and practices law in Morristown. If you would like to say hello, please reach out to Jennifer at **JLazor@lazorrantas.com**

IMPORTANT DATES

Committee Chairs: Deadline for newsletter articles for next newsletter - October 20th - day after the Board Meeting

Future Board Meetings: 10/19, 11/16, 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17 and 6/21



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