



## **Newsletter September 2025** *Empowering Women since 1881*



### **President's Message**

It has been a really hot summer with many weather-related tragedies around the country. In Madison, we have been relatively lucky.

I noticed that the heat does not bother me as much when I am with a nice group of people, talking, laughing, munching, drinking. This made me realize how important and valuable our



### **In Memory of Marsha T. "Misty" Kramer**

1948–2025

Marsha "Misty" Kramer passed away on July 20, 2025, after a long illness. A visitation was held when Words of Remembrance were

special interest groups have been. It is time to start up some more since we lost a few during the pandemic.

Here are some ideas that have come to mind:

*A Walking-Talking Club* which can meet weekly at a specified location and time.

Only thing you will need is a good pair of walking shoes.

*A Discussion Group* in which each member of the group takes a turn leading the group on a topic proposed by the leader in advance. Topics are limitless, such as what's your favorite TV show; who was the best President or First Lady; do we still need the Electoral College; or what is Transit Oriented Development.

It just takes 4 of you and you can meet anywhere. No equipment needed. All you need is curiosity!

We have a book club, why not *A Movie Club*. The group picks a movie – one just out or an old movie to view on your own time. Meet to discuss at each other's homes monthly. It would just take 4 to start. You can start with the list on the NY Times Best Movie of the 21st Century.

offered by family and friends. Members and former members attended. Susan Mennella and former member Mary Royer Lloyd spoke and shared memories of Misty. Meyra Green attended the burial the following day in Toms River.

August 29th marks Misty's birthday. At the August Board meeting, the board voted unanimously to honor her with tribute, a Mature Woman's grant for the coming year. Misty, a dedicated member for many years, contributed in many ways, including assembling the annual membership booklet, volunteering at book sales, and on the nominating committee.

The Mature Woman's Grant committee where she served for 25 years, sometimes as its Chair, was her true passion. Misty was passionate about helping women achieve their educational goals and truly valued and treasured her Madison AAUW friends. As we remember Misty, let's celebrate her upcoming birthday by making a gift to the Mature Woman's Grant named in her honor.

The grant is awarded to Morris County women, over 25 years of age, to pursue further education. Grants are made for certification

*A Bridge Club* which meets every 2 weeks. This too would need a minimum of 4 people and 2 decks of cards.

Let's make this the year of the Special Interest Clubs. Please think about my suggestions, add your own, and ask a couple of friends to join you. We will help you in every way we can.

When I moved to Madison 20 years ago, I sent out a group chat to everyone on Maple Ave., asking if anyone was interested in playing bridge or mahjong. We still gather every Monday night around my dining room table and play 2 hours of mahjong (and chat).

Some of the players have come and gone but a core group of us have become great friends.

It will work beautifully.

ANN HUBER,  
President

programs, associate degrees, four-year degrees, and advanced degrees. The branch is a 501(c)4 nonprofit, which means donations are not tax-deductible. The program is run by volunteers. One hundred percent of donations will go to the grant named in Misty's honor.

Checks should be made payable to "Madison Branch AAUW" with a note on the Memo line "grant in honor of Misty." Please mail to Becky Moody, Treasurer, [15 Page Street, Madison, NJ 07940](#).

SUSAN MENELLA  
MARGARET PHILP  
MEYRA J. GREEN

**AAUW-MADISON  
2025 GRANTEES**



**FAITH SAUNDERS, FOUNDER & EXEC. DIR. OF I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

## **I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

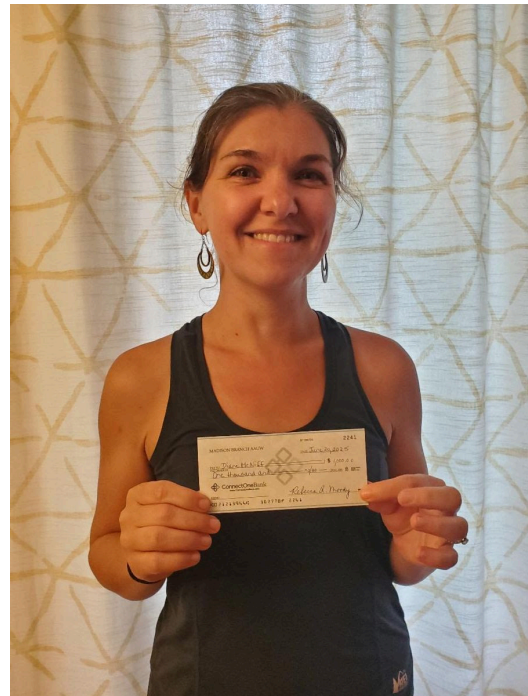
### **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM**

Join us Monday, September 15, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Chase Room in the Madison Public Library as our branch kicks off a new year by sponsoring a program highlighting the critical need for supporting single parents. In November 2022, The U.S. Census Bureau released estimates showing there were 10.9 million one-parent family groups with a child under the age of 18. Data from the annual release of **America's Families and Living Arrangements** also show that 80% of one-parent family



**AMANDA MARTORELLI**

Amanda is a Graduate Student at Chamberlain University School of Nursing. She plans to become a Family Nurse Practitioner.



**DIANA MCNIFF**

groups were maintained by a mother.

**Speaker:** Faith Saunders, Founder and Executive Director of *I Can Make A Difference* (iCMAD). Faith will speak on the work iCMAD does to address the real-world needs of single parents. The organization provides a comprehensive range of support services and resources including:

- Workshops
- Peer Support Groups
- Practical Skill-Building

**HOLD THE DATE:  
OCT. 6 AT. 6:30 PM**

**"MEET & GREET"**

The monthly program for October is a an opportunity to meet our Mature Women Grant winners and Tech Trek campers to learn about their experiences with these programs. The meeting will take place on October 6th at 6:30PM at the Madison Community House located at [25 Cook Avenue, Madison](#).

The program includes a light dinner (pizza, salad, beverage and dessert). Cost is \$20 pp. More details on how to register and pay will be available in Sept. You will be able to sponsor one of our students,

Diana is a Graduate Student at Rutgers University seeking a Master's of Social Work.



**VICTORIA RUSSELL**

Victoria is a Graduate Student at Montclair State University. She is working on a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

again. Thank you for your generosity last year.

Our fellow AAUW members at the Summit Club are welcome.

## COME & VISIT US AT THE MADISON FARM & ARTISAN MARKET

**AAUW-MADISON WILL HAVE A TABLE ON SAT. AUG. 30, 2025 FROM 9:-00 TO 2:00 P.M.**

The Madison Farm & Artisan Market is held on Saturdays, and the season has been expanded from May 24 through December 13. The hours will be 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The market is located in the Prospect Street Parking Lot at the corner of Kings Road and Prospect Street. Parking is available in the Kings & Maple Ave. side.

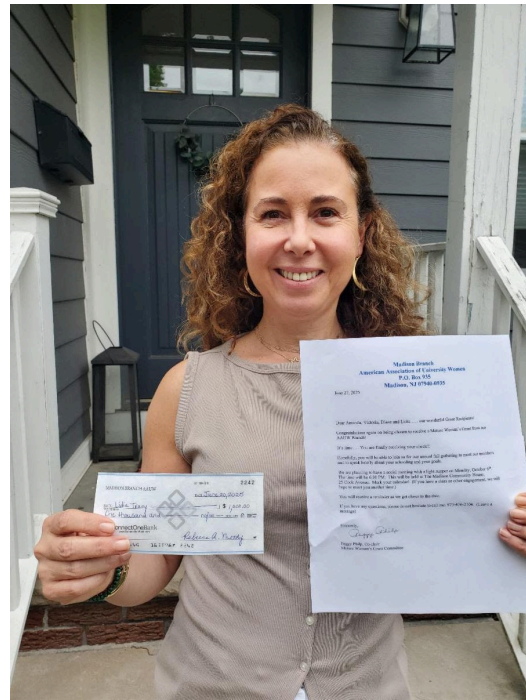
**STOP BY AND PICK UP A GIFT & SAY HELLO!**

## ATTENTION:

As I was working this newsletter on 8/21/25, I received the following email:

"Dear friends,

As we speak, the Trenton Police are aiding ICE in



## LIDIA TRACY

Lidia is an Undergraduate Student at County College of Morris. She is in the Pre-professional phase of the Radiology program and will graduate with an Associate in Applied Science degree.

## AAUW Book Club



Our book group holds hybrid meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at

a standoff at a private home in flagrant violation of the Immigrant Trust Directive. Our partners Resistencia are on the scene — where one has already been arrested by Trenton Police for asking the ICE agents for a warrant — as are an aide to Rep. Watson Coleman and the Mayor. Everyone is asked to email the City Council to call for this injustice to be resisted. It doesn't matter if you don't live there, this affects the whole state and how it will be threatened going forward..."

Later, I received the following: "UPDATE: ICE was eventually turned away, the one activist arrested has been released, and our email-senders got strong replies from at least two Council members, one of whom is pasted below; thanks to all who rallied on short notice to respond! —Adam"

This is not a partisan issue. It is a civil rights issue.

If you want to help, contact Adam@WOSJ.org

Ann Huber

**ATTENTION:  
PROSPECTIVE NEW  
MEMBERS!!  
SAVE 50% ON  
NATIONAL (\$74)**

1PM. New participants are always welcome!

The next book group meeting is on Wednesday, September 10th from 1:00pm to 2:30pm at the Madison Library conference room.

The September book is "The Lion Women of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali.

As Thomas Paine wrote in *Common Sense*: "*In America the law is king. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king; and there ought to be no other.*"

Contact Marianne Belock at [marianne.belock@gmail.com](mailto:marianne.belock@gmail.com) to get on the email notification list.

See notes on the Morristown Book Festival below.

## **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/>

## MEMBERSHIP FEE with the Shape the Future Campaign

The Shape the Future membership campaign is a tool that branches can use to recruit and retain members. With this campaign, branches can offer 50% off national dues when prospective members join AAUW at an event or meeting. Branches also earn one free national membership for every two new members they recruit, with a maximum of three free memberships annually.



New Member:

**EILEEN MEIGHAN**

Holds a BS from St. Thomas Aquinas of Ca. and now lives in Madison. She moved here to be close to family.

Please send your welcome messages to  
[eileen.meighan@me.com](mailto:eileen.meighan@me.com)

which is a 501(3) c, by designating your donation for Tech Trek.

Contact Becky with questions at [rmooddy9856@gmail.com](mailto:rmooddy9856@gmail.com)



Dear Friends!

I'm walking 50 miles (for the 10th time!) in the Multiple Sclerosis Challenge Walk Cape Cod on September 5-7. If you would be willing to **SPONSOR** me, the link is below.

Donations of any amount make a difference to create a world without MS! If you have a family member or friends with the disease, please let me know their names so I can add them to the list that I walk with. Thanks so much!

Diane Pivarnik,  
AAUW-Madison

**Donate**

**WALK MS**

<https://events.nationalmssociety.org/participants/583172/donate>

**MORRISTOWN**  
**FESTIVAL**  
**OF BOOKS**  
**OCTOBER 10 & 11, 2025**

Here it is: our much-anticipated 2025 author lineup! The all-day FREE festival on **Saturday, October 11**, offers something for everyone with 100+ award-winning and best-selling fiction, nonfiction, and children's authors to appear at the Main Festival and ever-popular KidFest event, to be held in historic downtown Morristown.

**Tickets are on sale now for our annual Fundraiser Event!**

On the eve of America's 250th anniversary, this year's Keynote Speaker, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner **Rick Atkinson**, will discuss his latest *New York Times* bestseller, *The Fate of the Day: The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780*, on-stage at MPAC on Friday evening, October 10.

**Don't wait—get your tickets today!**

<https://morristownbooks.org/2025-keynote-event/>

\*Keynote Fundraiser Event tickets include a signed hardcover copy of *The Fate of the Day*.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

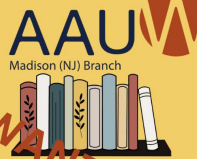
**AAUW Madison's NEXT MAHJONG TOURNAMENT**  
 already scheduled for

**Monday, Nov. 17, 2025**

Sign ups will open in September

The **Mahjong Special Interest Group** continues to play twice a month through the summer on Monday afternoons. We will teach you to play, if necessary.

For more info contact: Shirley at [rentatlbi@optonline.net](mailto:rentatlbi@optonline.net)



**BOOKS WANTED**

NOW ACCEPTING:  
 vhs, cd's, dvd's, vinyl

**BOOK COLLECTING**  
**10/27-10/30/25**  
 @ the YMCA - Kings Rd. Madison  
 @ FM Kirby Ctr - East St. Madison

*Please NO magazines, encyclopedias,  
 textbooks, or damaged books*

**BOOK SALE: in spring**

**BOOK-SALE COLLECTION**