

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
MADISON BRANCH**

President: Berly Morgan Editor: Judy Vernon

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A Message from our President

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Dear AAUW Madison Branch Members

We are so excited to start our new programming year! We would first like to thank Beth Krawczuk and her family who spearheaded our booth at Bottle Hill Day to promote our upcoming March program about women in STEM and Tech Trek. Thank you also to members Judy Vernon, Susan Mennella and Marianne Belock, Ann Huber, Ruth Zowader, Aldona Skrypa and Peggy Philp. We had a great presence at Bottle Hill and we are so grateful to have such passionate members.

As you know, we have our annual "potluck" to kick off our programming year and meet the mature grant recipients and Tech Trek campers. This year, it will be virtual and we look forward to hearing from them about their experiences, goals and objectives. We miss your faces and we hope you will join us on zoom October 18th!

October 2nd, was the AAUW NJ Fall Focus meeting. We honored Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill. She was the "Agent of change" recipient. She gave a wonderful speech; highlighted the importance of women at the political table using their voice on a local as well as national levels. She is also a fierce leader for female service leader rights and now working on the impact of COVID 19 to working women in New Jersey. Also speaking was Edwina Sessions the President of the Greater Delaware Valley branch of the NAACP. She spoke of the power of women in the voting booth. It was a great meeting and you can find the recording on www.aauwnj.com

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Fall and looking forward to seeing everyone on zoom for our upcoming meetings. Please invite a friend!
Thank you
Berly

Notes from the Editor

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Book Group
10/13/21
- Mahjongg
10/25/21
- Board Meeting
11/15/21

You should have received your Directory in the mail. Please note that Becky Moody's landline is no longer in service. Her mobile phone is listed in the directory. If you have any changes in you information, please send me an email to the address below.

Send information including directory updates to jpvernon@yahoo.com. Input for the newsletter is due the day after the board meeting.

👉 Announcements and Events 👈



The Book Group

All are welcome to join us. Lots of conversation and sharing ideas on the book, author, and its reviews. Come and join us bringing your suggestions for future reads. Contact Kathleen Magill or Susan Mennella for more information and to be put on the list for the Zoom link. **NEW MEMBERS welcome! As of October, the Book Group will meet on the second Wed of the month at 1PM.**

The October book is: *The Paris Library* by Janet Charles Skeslien

Date: October 13, 2021 at 1PM

Location: May be virtual or hybrid. Decision will be made closer to the meeting.



Mahjongg

Mahjongg group is resuming its schedule playing on the first and fourth Monday of the month. We meet at 11:30 am at Shirley Mutchler's home. Bring lunch. **NEW MEMBERS welcome! We will teach you to play.**

October 25, November 8, November 22

12 Grove Street, Madison

Board Meeting

Board meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. We will continue to use Zoom and links will be communicated to board members. Members are welcome to participate and should request login information from President. Since we are using Zoom, no snow days are planned. Check the newsletter & e-mails for changes.

2021: November 15 December none

2022: January 17 February 21 March 21 April 18 May 16 June 20

Madison Branch Programs

MEETINGS MAY BE IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL VIA THE PLATFORM ZOOM. Due to the pandemic all programming is subject to change. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AAUW newsletter and emails for current information

Monday October 18, 7:00 PM

Potluck - Meet and Greet

Our Annual Potluck Dinner will be modified somewhat. We plan to host both the Mature Woman's Grant Recipients and the Tech Trek Students and their mothers via ZOOM. **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89081057718?pwd=M1NnYStEM2k4bEZxT20wSkJDeWILQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 8105 7718

Passcode: 09679315

One tap mobile

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Monday November 8, 7:00 PM

Hidden Figures of Madison, NJ

Why Representation Matters Kenisha Tucker (Bonfield)-Co-founder and Lessons Coordinator will be our guest speaker; celebrating, sharing, and preserving the stories of underrepresented people of color in our history.

This will be a ZOOM meeting. Link will be distributed around Oct 30, 2021

Holiday luncheon for December (date and location) will be communicated in the next newsletter

Mature Woman's Grant Riciipients 2021 Meet and Greet Zoom October 18, 2021



Giovanna Baratto graduated from Madison High School in 1986. A few of my friends had joined the military and when they returned home for a visit, I was so impressed by their transformation that I decided to follow suit. I joined the Army as a Computer Hardware and Software Specialist. I helped manage the war documents for the Army at the Command & Control Support Agency at the Pentagon, and after 4 years of active service I was offered a job at the White House as its Computer Resource Coordinator. From there I accepted a position editing documents for Trident Submarines.

My ex-husband and I were stationed on the West Coast from 1992 until my return to NJ in 2002. During this time, I put my career on hold to raise my son; however, I remained in the service under the Reserves and ultimately the National Guard. I was completing Officer Candidate School when my unit was activated for Iraq in 2004 and it was then that I learned I had thyroid cancer and had a total thyroidectomy, thus leading to a medical discharge. I decided to change my career path and return to school for Physical Therapy so I could still serve in some capacity by helping to rehabilitate disabled Veterans.

Covid changed my plans once again. I was one of the unlucky ones to get the virus, and many of my loved ones either suffered through it as well, or worse. This again gave me the motivation to change direction and I completed an accelerated 10-month program in Respiratory Therapy in July 2021. The RT program was beyond difficult but knowing that I will have a direct impact on the lives of others is what kept me going. The best feeling in the world is helping to extubate a patient from a ventilator and sending him/her home or being able to get patients to smile and forget for just a moment that they are in a hospital. I am currently studying for the board exams and deciding on the best critical care hospital for me in addition to the VA. I can't get back on the floor fast enough!

Covid-19 has had such a horrible impact on everyone and I pray for the health and safety of all. The lesson I learned through my own circumstances is that I have a choice. I can either wallow in the realization that I now have unwelcome limitations, or I can take my experience and help others overcome similar trials. I always knew I wanted to make a difference. Covid has helped me finally find my true calling at the age of 53!



Salwa Hendy was born in Egypt I came to the U.S. with my husband and my kids in 2012, my husband and I work very hard to balance to take care of the kids; during COVID we have been out of work. My husband slowly got back into work parttime, while I am at home taking care of the kids. I am trying to work hard to upgrade my education and take classes to help me finding a new position. I will start this month with my accounting class by the CCM and i nope that will help me in the future for my new career. Thank You again.



Gina Massoni graduated from Rutgers University's accelerated BSN program as a second-degree nurse. I am currently a registered nurse at Morristown Medical Center, specifically within the pediatric department. This career is rewarding, especially working with this patient population. These children teach me lessons every day; they stay positive, happy and playful despite their illnesses.

Since beginning my nursing career I knew I wanted to advance my education to grow as a nurse and to contribute more to the field of nursing. Working in the medical field during a pandemic has opened my eyes and mind greatly. In March of last year, I volunteered to work within an adult Covid ICU, and as the hospitalized numbers decreased, I continued to work per diem in a Covid infusion center providing monoclonal antibodies to patients at high risk for severe illness due to Covid-19.

I have returned to Rutgers to obtain my doctorate in nursing practice in the family practice specialty. This program has been challenging, though I have already learned so much. I look forward to my personal career growth and the advanced knowledge I can provide to my patients. The grant you have awarded me will greatly assist in relieving some of the financial burden. I am honored to have received this grant from an association that supports and empowers women, and gives back to the community.



Juliana Sullivan is a lifelong Madison resident pursuing a clinical Occupational Therapy Doctorate Degree. She found her passion for the healthcare field as a teenager when she joined the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps and became a certified EMT, which she maintained for 6 years. This led her to the field of Occupational Therapy. She obtained her Bachelors in Health Sciences, with a Minor in Disability Studies, and Masters in Occupational Therapy from a combined 3+2 program at the University of Delaware and Thomas Jefferson University. As a registered and licensed Occupational Therapist, she has been working in New York City treating patients with neurological disorders such as spinal cord injury, stroke, traumatic brain injury, and Parkinson's Disease. While working as a clinician, she became a Certified Brain Injury Specialist to better serve her patients. She is now pursuing a Post Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree with a specialty in Neuroscience through her alma mater, Thomas Jefferson University. This program is fully online and allows her to work full time while obtaining

her degree. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked in the frontlines in her hospital with COVID patients; helping to discharge patients home, and volunteered to join the Proning Team in an effort to use her skills with the most critically ill patients during our nation's time of need. This life challenge contributed to her decision to return to school and pursue a higher level of education. She hopes to apply this degree to advancing the field of Occupational Therapy and improving herself as a clinician to constantly be providing the best patient care.



Leah Wandera is currently a second-year graduate student at Drew University, New Jersey, pursuing Masters' in Divinity – Social Justice Advocacy. Leah graduated from Moi University (Kenya) with a B.Sc. in Project Planning and Management, in 2016.

She was born and raised in Busia county, Western region of Kenya, the fourth, in a family of seven children.

Leah's life experience motivated her conviction to advocate for gender equality, sustainable community development, child protection and education for girls. She has worked as Global Mission Fellow (young adult missionaries' program under General Board of Global Ministries) in Zimbabwe, as a Gender Advocacy Officer and Programs Coordinator, from 2016 to 2018. This gave her the chance to travel to at least ten different countries/states worldwide, including her first travel to USA in 2016.

Applying her global experience locally, she became a CEO of Hope Foundation for African Women (Kenyan NGO that strives for gender justice through ending of violence against women with priority to ending female genital mutilation, promoting women's rights and economic empowerment) from June 2018 to February 2020. Her passion for education inspired her to found Mama's Smile Health Foundation (Kenyan NGO striving for Health and Education equality for Girls and Women) in July 2019. She serves as the CEO of Mama's Smile, currently sponsoring 10 girls for high school and college supporting at least 150 girls on healthy living in Kenya.

Besides just being an international student here in the USA, Leah currently works with Drew International Students' Services office/INTO Drew as Administrative Assistant. She is also the International Students' (African Region) Liaison and as Events Coordinator for Theological Students' Association. In addition, she is a member of American Association of University Women, Madison Branch – New Jersey and one of the recipients for Mature Women Grants award.

Because in 2007, someone believed in her potential, supported her when she ran away from child marriage, and made it possible for her to attain her high school education. And in 2012, a friend from Germany saw her potential, that she supported her to attain her undergraduate degree. She learned and values what was passed to her, that she committed herself to pass it on to fellow girls in Kenya.

"I Am Because You Are!" Ubuntu