

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

**MADISON AREA BRANCH**

President: Ann Huber



V

November 2023

Website: <http://AAUWMadisonnj.com>



## A Message from our President

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Interest Groups
- Book Group 4
- Mahjongg 4
- Board Meeting Schedule 2
- Program Dates 4

Dear Friends,

I recently read an awe inspiring article recently by David Brooks, one of my favorite pundits. He writes an Opinion Column for the New York Times. Brooks adapted an essay from his book “How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen.” The essay title is “The Essential Skills for Being Human” in which he describes his journey to finding a more emotional existence and connection to others.

It’s been said (NPR and others) that we are experiencing a loneliness epidemic which arose during our Covid isolation. Brooks came up with a list of skills found in persons who connect with others. He calls those persons “illuminators.”

1. “The gift of attention” refers to our need to attend to others with warmth and enthusiasm because each is a “creature with infinite value and dignity.”
2. “Accompaniment” describes “an other-centered way to being with people during the normal routines of life.” I know that when I have a list of errands, efficiency demands that I say nothing more than “Hello” and “How are you?” But, that is not a good way of being there.
3. “The Art of Conversation” starts with “being a loud listener.” Then, Brooks goes on

to “Storify whenever possible” referring to asking questions that suggest they relate experiences with others that shaped their values. Turn your partner into a narrator with follow-up questions. “Don’t be a topper” by shifting conversation back to yourself.

4. You can improve on the quality of your conversation by asking big questions; that is, don’t be cautious as adults tend to be.
5. Start your conversation by putting yourself in the listener’s shoes.

I like his description of “The illuminators offer the privilege of witness. They take the anecdotes, rationalizations and episodes we tell and see us in a noble struggle. They see the way we’re navigating the dialectics of life – intimacy versus independence, control versus freedom – and understand that our current selves are just where we are right now on our long continuum of growth.”

I must say that all of you who attended my talk about my memoir are illuminators. We had a wonderful conversation that left us all feeling more connected. Thank you for listening.

ANN HUBER



***Celebrate the holidays with your AAUW Madison Area Branch at a Holiday Luncheon. Members and their guests welcome!***

**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023

**Place:** Hubers' home,  
54 Maple Ave, Madison\*

**Time:** 12:30PM

**Menu:** Delicious Italian buffet catered by Nicky's Firehouse Restaurant. Non-alcoholic beverages provided. BYOB if you want wine.

**Cost:** \$34.00 pp inclusive

**RSVP:** Advance reservations & prepayment required. Deadline extended to **Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>**

<https://aauwmadisonnj.square.site/holiday-luncheon>

If you don't want to pay online, mail a check, made payable to AAUW Madison, to Becky Moody, 15 Page Street, Madison 07940. Be sure to include your name, email and phone #.

**Questions:** [smennella@verizon.net](mailto:smennella@verizon.net) or 201-424-1267.

**\*Note:** There are stairs at Ann's front entrance. Attendees can also walk up the driveway and enter from the side where there are only two stairs. We may have leftovers so it is suggested you bring a container if you want to bring some delicious food home.

**2024**

## Nominations for AAUW NJ

Elected and Appointed Positions are open

The AAUW NJ Nominating Committee is searching for several elected and appointed positions that will be open beginning 2024. We have been asked to help with this process. Please consider volunteering for a position. The names of the positions and their descriptions are attached below.

### **Treasurer (2024-2025) \***

The AAUW NJ Treasurer is the state finance officer who oversees the fiscal operations of the state organization (referred to as "State Finance Chair" by AAUW National). The Treasurer is a voting member of the AAUW NJ Executive Committee.

\* This position would be for one year to finish out the term of the current Treasurer. It would be ideal for a nominee to agree to make a three-year commitment to the position.

### **Northern District Coordinator (2024-2026)**

The District Coordinator position is an elected voting member of the AAUW New Jersey Board, is on the Executive Committee, and acts as consultant to the branches.

### **Funds Director (2024-2025)**

The State Funds Director oversees efforts to maximize the impact of strategic philanthropic development and donor stewardship to ensure sustainability of AAUW's programs and to support the members of AAUW NJ in carrying out the mission of AAUW. As an appointed, non-voting member of the AAUW NJ Board, the State Funds Director fully participates as a board member.

If interested or know anyone who should be interested, please contact Ann: [ahuberesq@gmail.com](mailto:ahuberesq@gmail.com)

## SAVE THESE DATES



## JANUARY BRANCH MEETING

Monday, January 15, 2024  
1:00PM

Viewing and discussion of film,  
**Ruby Bridges**  
Florham Park Library,  
Akhoury Room  
107 Ridgedale Ave.,  
Florham Park,, NJ

Parking available

Co-sponsored with League of Women  
Voters Morristown Area



### **Girls' STEM Workshop** **March 12, 2024**

Save the date of March 12, 2024 for our next branch STEM event for girls in grades 7- 9. The program will run from 6:30PM - 9:00PM at the Madison Community House. The girls will have opportunity to discuss their career paths with professional women in different STEM fields. The Workshop is being organized for the second time by Beth Krawczuk, a STEM professional. AAUW members Marianne Belock, Susan Mennella, Judy Vernon, and Ruth Zowader, will serve as other professionals on the team. Email Beth [bstuehler@gmail.com](mailto:bstuehler@gmail.com) if you have contacts for professional women, contacts for girls in this age range, would like to help with social media, other PR or assist in any other way. 😊



## 3rd MAHJONGG TOURNAMENT

AAUW Madison hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Mahjong Tournament 11/15/23. It was a great success thanks to Borough of Madison and employees Lisa Ellis and John Pietrowski for allowing us to make use of this beautiful new space and accommodating our various requests.

A heartfelt thank you our AAUW Member-volunteers who donated door prizes. Others donated their time to help set up welcome snacks and buffet lunch, register guests, and score tournament results. In no particular order, helpers were Susan Mennella, Judy Vernon, Nancy Adamczyk, Becky Moody, Meyra Green, Jeanne Eisele, and Ruth Zowader. I would be remiss if I did not mention that Wakefern Shop Rite of Chatham donated a \$50 gift certificate toward our luncheon. Thank you, Shop Rite.

At the end of the game of four rounds, we distributed cash prizes to the top 3 players:  
1<sup>st</sup> place - Julie Rifon from Morristown,  
2nd place - Katherine Friedman, AAUW Poughkeepsie, 3rd place - Jane Benjamin from Mendham Borough. If you would like to learn how to play, please feel free to join the



AAUW Mahjong Group which plays twice a month.  
Put **May 16, 2024** on your calendar!

	<b>Notes from the Editor</b>	
<p><b>UPCOMING MEETINGS &amp; EVENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Group 12/14/20/23</li> <li>• Board Meeting 01/22/2024</li> </ul>	<p><b>Catch up on members...</b></p> <p>DEAR Jodi,</p> <p>We wish your son a speedy recovery,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Friends at the Madison Area AAUW</p> <p>Send us a note to let everyone know ALL the good news this spring.... Do you have a new grandchild? Anyone getting married or graduating? Whatever the news we wish everyone the best and are happy to be celebrating with you.</p>	
<p>Send information including directory updates to <a href="mailto:jpvernon@yahoo.com">jpvernon@yahoo.com</a>. Input for the newsletter is due the day before the next board meeting.</p>		

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2>The Group</h2> </div>  <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2>Book</h2> </div> </div> <p>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. <b>NEW MEMBERS welcome! Contact Susan Mennella or Kathleen Magill to learn more or to be added to the email and ZOOM list.</b></p> <p><b>December Book Group Meeting - Hybrid</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Wed. Dec. 14, 2023  <b>Time:</b> 12:30PM Bring Brown Bag Lunch, 1:00PM Discussion</p> <p><b>Host:</b> Marianne Belock , 52 Glenwild, Madison</p> <p>Book being discussed: <i>The Maid</i> by Nita Prose.</p> <p>Zoom link will be sent closer to the meeting.</p> <p>New participants always welcome! Contact Susan Mennella at <a href="mailto:smennella@verizon.net">smennella@verizon.net</a> for more information.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <h2>MahJongg</h2> </div> </div> <p>MahJongg group is continuing its schedule, playing on the second and fourth Monday of the month. We meet at Shirley Mutchler's or Eileen Ryan's home 11:30 am. Bring lunch. <b>NEW MEMBERS welcome! We will teach you to play.</b></p> <p>Next meeting is on December 12, 2023. No Game on Dec. 24, 2023. For info contact Shirley at <a href="mailto:rentalbi@optonline.net">rentalbi@optonline.net</a></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOARD MEETINGS</b></p> <p><b>Board meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, unless otherwise noted, at 7:30 p.m. We will continue to meet via ZOOM, for the foreseeable future. Links will be provided when necessary. Members are welcome to participate and should request login information from the Ann Huber at <a href="mailto:Ahuberesq@gmail.com">Ahuberesq@gmail.com</a></b></p> <p><b>Check the newsletter &amp; emails for changes.</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting: January 22, 2024</b></p>
---	---

November 2023

**JOIN OUR FRIENDS AT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS:**

*Please join us for a*

*Holiday*  
**PARTY**

December 11th

Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
21 Normandy Heights Rd,  
Morristown, NJ 07960

6:00PM – 8:30PM

RSVP to [lwvmorrisarea@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmorrisarea@gmail.com)  
[lwvmorrisarea.org](http://lwvmorrisarea.org)

*Hosted by the League of Women Voters Morristown Area*