



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF NEW JERSEY

August 2023

WELCOME to AAUW NJ's newly formatted **mission-focused newsletter** – equi{tea}! Our new name is a playful pun on AAUW's demand for "Equity Now" and a commonly used slang "tea" that refers to inside information. Our thanks to Karen Kaplan, Program Vice President, for coming up with the clever name!

SPILLIN' THE TEA

President's Note

Dear friend,

I am excited to be leading this organization; to continue to make sure we have a seat at the table and be a respected voice in the room. I wish to thank all the board members who have been working for the State since their election in April. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

In my dialogue with branches around the State, I am impressed with the level of commitment we all have to the mission of AAUW. Let's be **Tea Kettle strong** by making our efforts easier by remembering to collaborate with other like-minded organizations.

What's Brewing?... Statewide resources to help each of us advance gender equity in our communities.

Let's raise our TEAcups together as members of AAUW NJ and continue to Elevate the State.

For equity,
Sharon Suber

Special Note: AAUW NJ contributed to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund in memory of Joan Odud, president of AAUW NJ from 2002–2006. For more about Joan and her dedication to AAUW, check out the [state website](#).

WHAT'S BREWING IN THE GARDEN STATE

Menstrual Equity bill passes in Legislature



AAUW NJ joined the statewide menstrual equality coalition - [Equality, Period NJ](#) to advocate to mandate free menstrual products in school bathrooms for students in grades 6-12. On June 8, President Sharon Suber and Communications Vice President Anjali Mehrotra joined advocates in Trenton to testify and meet with the Governor's staff. **Bill S1221 was passed in both chambers with nearly unanimous bipartisan support** on June 30 and is awaiting the Governor's signature. AAUW NJ applauded the passing of the measure with this [press release](#).

TAKING ACTION

100 years is too long to wait for full equality



[Tell your members of Congress affirm the ERA as the 28th Amendment!](#) This year marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**, which would provide a constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law. The ERA has met all the requirements for ratification. [Here's an excellent op-ed](#) by NOW President Christian F. Nunes on why the ERA is still needed. Join us in calling for the 28th Amendment to be formally published as part of the Constitution.

If you receive a response from your representatives in Congress, please forward a copy to AAUW NJ Public Policy Director [Mary Hager](#). Mary is creating a report card for each member of NJ's Congressional Delegation, and would appreciate knowing how he/she is responding to AAUW's public policy priorities.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION

Students explore careers in STEM with Teentech



On May 25, 79 students from Weequahic, Westside and Newark School of Fashion & Design high schools participated in AAUW NJ Teentech Newark 2023 at Essex County College (ECC) in Newark. The event was organized by Dr. Stephanie Falana (Garden State Branch) in collaboration with Dr. Alvin Williams, Executive Dean of Faculty and Academics at ECC. Faculty presented interactive workshops on topics ranging from chemistry of soapmaking, to DNA extraction, to hands-on experience in the nursing lab. Feedback from the students was that they really enjoyed the college environment and were inspired to continue participating in research fields. Volunteers from Greater Wayne Branch welcomed the high-school attendees and assisted with check-in.

The Equal Pay Act turns 60

Now you can join the fun with **#LevelThePayingField**. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act throughout the summer. You can too by creating a short video for your own social media followers showing that you support equal pay for equal work.

[Equal Pay Act 60th Anniversary: #LevelThePayingField Social Media Campaign](#)

Congratulations to 2023-24 Fellows and Grantees!

AAUW is thrilled to award \$6.3 million in funding to 285 exceptional women earning advanced degrees, creating change in their communities, and conducting cutting edge research. Congratulations to New Jersey's three recipients — [Alisha Cupid](#), [Ying Cui](#) and [Melissa Brzycki](#) on their awards!

If your branch is forwarding the AAUW mission in some way, please share your activities with aauwnj@gmail.com. We want to celebrate you!

IN THE NEWS...

- [The Anti-Trans Crusade Comes to New Jersey](#) — The Nation
- [Orange Draws Praise for Ad Challenging Prejudice Toward Women's Soccer](#) — AdWeek
- ['We just don't hire women': In the construction industry, discrimination runs rampant](#) — The 19th*
- [The Critical Role of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Higher Education](#) — Ms. Magazine
- [Domestic violence survivors are supposed to be protected at work. So why aren't employers complying?](#) — The 19th*

UPCOMING EVENTS — Mark your calendar!

August 26 Women's Equality Day

August TBA AAUW NJ Membership Meeting

September 14 AAUW NJ Board Meeting

October 27 NJ Conference for Women

November 9–10 NJEA Convention

November 12 AAUW NJ Executive Committee Meeting

January 7, 2024 AAUW NJ Executive Committee Meeting

January 11, 2024 Human Trafficking Awareness Day

February 13, 2024 AAUW NJ Statewide Black History Month Program

March 13, 2024 AAUW NJ Board Meeting

April 13, 2024 AAUW NJ State Annual Meeting

 **Tea Break** — What we are watching!



Join us to cheer on the number-one ranked U.S. women's national soccer team in the [Women's World Cup](#) in its quest to defend its world champion status. The U.S. women's team has been dominant for decades — winning four World Cups and four Olympic gold medals — and the team is chasing an unprecedented third consecutive title. The team has made many headlines in the recent past as they fought and [won their right to equal pay](#). Get the latest info and schedules [here](#).

Meet and Greet w/ President Suber

What made you join AAUWNJ? In 1999, I was looking for an organization that gave scholarships and grants to school's STEM programs. I read on the national website that AAUW not only gave money to organizations but was on the forefront of fighting for the rights of women. I was impressed with all the women that were members of the organization. At the time, I was in the process of relocating to South Jersey and decided to contact the local branch. I joined in July of 2000.



What issue would you like to see AAUW focus on that is not getting enough attention? AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research. I would like to see more research publications that target issues that affect single mothers.

What's your favorite "me" thing to do?

I enjoy spa manicures and attending murder mystery dinner shows.

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The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and more than 800 college and university members. AAUW of New Jersey is the state affiliate representing approximately 1200 members in 20 branches throughout New Jersey.



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