



THE FORUM

Atlantic County Branch

December 2014

Volume 114, No. 4

On the Web: [Atlantic County](#) [State](#) [National](#)



President's Message - Gail Vreeland

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AAUW of New Jersey held a successful "Fall Focus" 2-day retreat in Oct. at Resorts. There was a good turnout of members from branches all over the state. Atlantic County members worked at the sign-in table, helped with decorations, and participated in many workshops. During the "Cocktails and Convos" Open Mic event, I shared the success story of our "Write a Letter to the Editor" Party. Public Policy Chair, Michelle Douglass, ran one of the "Hands-On Workshop Presentations" about Tech Trek Camp. (You will find more information in the Forum about this exciting STEM camp that we are sponsoring for 8th grade girls at Stockton, next July.) We met new friends from neighboring branches, and opened up new avenues of communication and cooperation with them. I believe we all came away with a renewed sense of commitment to AAUW. Thank you to all of our branch members who attended and participated!

Major Fundraiser

Saturday, Nov. 22
 Speaker: AC Mayor, Don Guardian
 Call Claire Moyer for last minute reservations. 641-8287

Program News - Lucy Jerue

ljerue@comcast.net

Our **December program** is an outing to enjoy The South Jersey Area Wind Ensemble. Their holiday concert, *Into the Light*, will take place on Monday evening **December 8th** at 7:30pm at the Richard Stockton Performing Arts Center. As many of you know, our own Karen Poorman is the President of the Wind Ensemble and will be one of the many talented musicians performing that evening.

If you are one of the 29 people who ordered a ticket, then I have your ticket and will give it to you just prior to the show. We will plan on meeting in the area near the box office at 7:15pm to pass out tickets. The tickets are assigned seating. All are located in row F.

We have the option, before the show, of enjoying a **buffet dinner** at the Student Dining Center located in the N-Wing. This is a short walk from the PAC. It is one wing over. They offer soup, salad, pizza, pasta, hot and cold food, a dessert bar, ice cream, coffee, tea, water, soda, etc. They usually have a gluten-free item too. Dinner is \$10.00 and it is open to the public.

If you are interested in the dinner option, I suggest that you arrive at the campus early, find a space in **Parking Lot 6** near the PAC, and walk over to the N-Wing cafeteria. Arriving between **5:45 and 6pm** would be a good idea. Our own Peg Fiore has arranged for us to have our own seating area in the dining hall. That way we can linger over coffee/tea and dessert. You do not have to sign up in advance for dinner. Just show up if you are interested.

If you would like to attend this event and did not order a ticket through me, you may do so directly from the Stockton Box Office.

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AAUW Atlantic County Scholarship Fundraiser

American Association of University Women, Atlantic County Branch

Saturday, November 22, 2014

Social 12:00 Noon Luncheon 1:00 PM

Atlantic City Country Club

Shore Road, Northfield

Featuring Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian



Menu Choices

Tenderloin of beef. Chicken Francaise. Baked salmon.

Price \$40.00

Raffle

**For new reservations or cancellations,
call Claire Moyer 641-8287 today!**

(Reservation deadline November 15.)

Financial Report: October 2014

Diana Intenzo diainzo75@comcast.net

Operations Account

Income:

Dues \$ 40.00

Less: Expenses

Insurance \$ 175.00
College Connect 17.06
Photo Book 38.50
Membership: Booklet 111.71
WLI Ad 50.00 - 392.27

Balance \$ 5,361.27

Scholarship Account

Income: Boscov's Tickets \$ 660.00

Balance \$ 7,871.73

Gift Cards Needed - Please Help

Lucy Jerue ljerue@comcast.net

For both our December and January programs we will be collecting gift cards for the Atlantic County Women's Center. Their needs are as follows:

Wawa gift cards for any amount are needed for the victims of domestic violence. Many of these women and their children are being sheltered and will need to pick up incidentals or buy gas.

Gift cards in \$5.00 amounts for either McDonald's or Starbucks or any other type of fast food restaurant are needed for the victims of human trafficking. When a victim is rescued, she is often hungry. The person making the rescue wants to be able to sit down with the victim to have her talk and eat. You will learn more about this at our January branch meeting, which will be a Forum on Human Trafficking.

If you are coming to the December 8th dinner and program at Stockton, please bring your gift cards. You may also bring them to the January 10th meeting at the Women's Center. Feel free to donate both months to assist the Women's Center in this important work. Many thanks for your support.

New Forum Mailing Expense Policy

Terry Dailey, Corresponding Secretary
johnd4photo@aol.com

Due to increases in copying and postage costs, the board has approved an additional \$20 per year fee to those who receive the Forum via "Snail Mail" (mailed photocopy) which will take effect with the start of the 2015/2016 membership year. It now costs from \$1.20 to \$1.55 for copying and from \$.50 to \$.70 in postage for each copy of the Forum which gets mailed. This means that our group is expending approximately \$20 per person per year on those who receive their Forums in that manner rather than via email which costs nothing. As we only receive \$10 of your dues, this means that we are having to take an additional \$10 of hard earned operating funds to subsidize the mailings. (Remember that of your \$69 dues, \$49 goes to National, \$10 to State and only \$10 to our group.) The only alternative is to raise dues for all members which is unfair to the vast majority who read their Forums online.

If you do not have a computer or printer at home, the suggested alternatives are to go the library and use one of their computers or have a friend in our AAUW let you read it on their computer or print it out for you. The board recognizes that this may be a hardship for some of you and have delayed this decision for some time. The policy of only sending communications online has existed at the national and state levels for some time and this brings our group in to line with that policy. We apologize for any inconvenience, but our dues structure is inadequate to continue to support snail mailings of the Forum without charging those members who receive it that way.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE Election Day Results: How Did We Do?

By: Michelle J. Douglass, Esq. mdouglasslaw@gmail.com



On Election Day, AAUW's and friends' voices were heard loud and clear on ballot initiatives on issues including the minimum wage, paid sick days, and equal rights. Here's the run-down on how our issues fared in state elections.

Giving Workers and Women a Raise!

Voters in Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois*, Nebraska, and South Dakota strongly supported minimum wage increases. In fact, in each and every state, (red and blue) the measures received more votes than the winning candidates running statewide. Hundreds of thousands of workers will now be eligible, starting in 2015, for an hourly raise.

Since July 24, 2009, U.S. federal law requires a minimum wage of at least \$7.25 per hour. As a result of the recent election, a majority of the states have or soon will have a minimum wage higher than the federal minimum. President Obama has been advocating an increase in the amount of \$10.10 per hour. Labor activists advocate for \$15.00 per hour. An idea worth considering is to remove this issue altogether from politics (an unlikely scenario) and link the federal rate to relatively objective economic criteria such as its historical relationship to poverty or index it to inflation (as 13 states now do) Under either scenario, the minimum wage should translate to \$9.00 an hour. In New Jersey the minimum wage is \$8.25 an hour.

*Illinois' vote was nonbinding.

We are pleased to announce **STEM Tech Trek** is coming to New Jersey!

AAUW-NJ/Atlantic County Branch needs your help.

For More Information, Please Visit:

<http://ac-nj.aauw.net/tech-trek/>

(click the link)

Woman of Distinction Award Tula Christopoulos

Woman of Distinction Award - March 14, 2015. Please call or email Tula Christopoulos with any suggestions for **nomination** of our upcoming Woman of Distinction Award Luncheon. (609) 226-5827. tegea111@aol.com

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to **Helen Riso** who is recovering from surgery for a broken hip, after a fall. Get Well cards may be sent to her home address, 619 Pitney Road, Absecon, NJ 08201.



Membership - Barbara Wolnerman

blw425@aol.com

Recently I had the opportunity to participate in a conference call of 25 Membership VP's from across the country. It was interesting to hear about other branches and to pick up some new ideas as well. I also came away with a strong sense of pride in our own branch. Whether it's through our monthly meetings, fundraising efforts, interest groups, public policy initiatives, Tech Trek and STEM or all of the above, our members' strong sense of commitment to the AAUW mission is evident and very much appreciated by all. Atlantic County AAUW is truly on the move!

ROSTER UPDATE: Zoe Christakos new email address:: zchristakos1234@gmail.com

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett geoca41@gmail.com

Mary Rydzewski's presentation on the Galapagos was excellent. Many members were in attendance. There is no meeting in December, but make a note of the following dates:



Mary Hardwick & Mary Rydzewski

January 14, 2015 Brittany, France Ann-Marie Guevara (a new member) will give us some history about Brittany and tell us about some of the charming and typical small towns she visited this fall.

February 18, 2015 China Terry Daily just came back from a comprehensive trip to China and will share her impressions with us -and show us some souvenirs she brought back. She will host the program.

March 18, 2015 China Marga Matheny spent last year in Shanghai preparing advanced students for the SAT and GRE. She will share some of her experiences with us. (Note: This program will be very different than the preceding one.)

All meetings will start at 7 pm. I am looking for other venues than my house for the January and March meetings. (I am having trouble fitting everyone in.) Both presenters plan to use whatever one calls slides now, so the site would need the capability to handle that. (I am looking into using one of the local libraries.)



Travel Group members reading letters written by students in the Galapagos Islands. Spanish Group members were very helpful!

Boscov's Fundraiser Summary

Gerri Morrison gerri.m137@gmail.com

Did you enjoy shopping during the Friends Helping Friends fundraiser on October 21st at Boscov's? Many of our members were able to join the crowds and indulge in finding lots of "good deals" while also helping our scholarship fund.

I'm happy to announce that this year's Boscov's Fundraiser brought in a total of **\$660**. The money will go toward a scholarship.

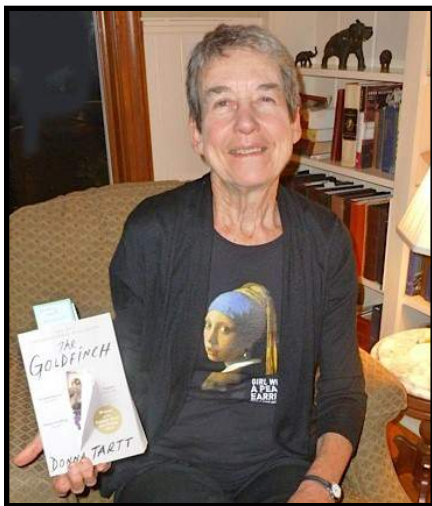
Thanks to everyone who bought tickets and participated in this year's fundraiser. We sold 132 tickets to support a worthy cause. Your efforts are truly appreciated for making this a successful event.



Book Group - Mary Lou Breidenstine
breidensti@aol.com

Lucy Jerue will lead a discussion of "The Signature of All Things" by Elizabeth Gilbert on **December 10** at 7:00. Hostess is Jan Smith. This engaging novel tells the story of a young woman, born in 1800, who "comes into her own within the world of plants and science." You are sure to be drawn into the history of the era.

Look ahead to the **January 21** meeting by beginning "Paris Architect" by Charles Belfoure. If you would like to receive Book Club updates, e-mail Mary Lou at breidensti@aol.com.



Carolyn Bassett presents *The Goldfinch*

Stockton Children's Theater - Vicki Biron
vickibiron@comcast.net

Ushers are still needed for the Stockton Children's Theater. The dates and times are:

The Nutcracker-Friday, December 12 at 10:30am.

Somers Point Jazz Education Concert
on Wednesday, April 15 at 10:30am.

Bay-Atlantic Symphony Education Concert
on Tuesday, May 5 at 10:30am.

Ushers should arrive no later than 9:45 AM as the doors open at 10:00 AM.

If you'd like to help out, and see a great performance, please send me an e-mail with the dates you can usher and include your phone number. I will call you to remind you a week before the event.

My e-mail is vickibiron@comcast.net or give me a call at 609-703-3788.



Claire Moyer, Jan Smith, MaryLou Breidenstine at Book Group

Editor's Corner: A Place to Share Good News



CONGRATS to Gail Davis

Inducted in East Stroudsburg University Hall of Fame.

Visit our Facebook page at



<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Atlantic> or click the thumb.

Forum & Facebook editor: Mary R. mrydz@yahoo.com



Conversational Spanish

Claire Moyer clairekm@mac.com

Do you want to be part of an informal group that converses in Spanish with abilities ranging from beginner-plus to native speaker? If so, please join the Spanish Group that meets every **Monday** throughout the year from 4:15 until 6:00 at the home of Claire Moyer. Please call her at 609-641-8287 for more information and directions to her home.

College Connection
Gail Davis ghdath@comcast.net

We have all made contacts with our campus representatives, have dates established for the Start Smart programs on both Mays Landing and AC campuses. Also funding has been secured for a 3 license!! Currently working on a meeting of all reps with Dr. Levy.

The **South Jersey Area Wind Ensemble** will give each audience member a silk corsage or boutonniere until 7:20. Everyone must be in a seat by 7:30, because the lights will go to "the darkness" at 7:30 and no one will be admitted until there is sufficient light.

The site to order remaining tickets can be accessed at www.sjawe.com below the rose.

Karen Poorman kmpoorman@aol.com

Scholarships

Our 4 recipients have received invitations to the scholarship luncheon. Gail Davis And Karen Poorman

ETHNIC CUISINES

Phyllis Trackman Lptrackman@comcast.net

The first luncheon outing for the Ethnic Cuisine Group took place on October 18 at the Greek restaurant, Katina's, in Ocean City. Over 20 members had signed up, and a great time was had by all in attendance. We had an opportunity to enjoy good, interesting food and to get to know one another in a social setting. Good show!





Since there's so much going on over the next few months – including our Fundraiser in November (the 22nd), Thanksgiving, and the holidays – our next outing will be sometime in February. So keep posted for date and place, and come join in for the food and fun. (Submitted by Diane Intenzo)

Photos courtesy of Carolyn B

NJ Fall Focus in Atlantic City





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <i>Holiday Concert/ Dinner @ Stockton</i>	9	10 <i>Book Club</i>	11	12 <i>Usher for Nutcracker at Stockton</i>	13
14	15	16 	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

AAUW Atlantic County Branch
c/o Terry Dailey
821 Leiling Lane
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

DATED MATERIAL