



THE FORUM

Atlantic County Branch

MAY 2015

Volume 114, No. 9

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



President's Message - Gail Vreeland

ggvreeland@comcast.net

Spring is in the air and our 2014-2015 AAUW year will soon be over. We will have a lovely end of the year dinner in May. You won't want to miss it! Check the details in this issue of the Forum, and send in your reservation. We have a lot to celebrate. We've had a wonderful, successful year. Our major project, Tech Trek, promises to be one of the most ambitious and worthwhile projects this branch has undertaken. A standing ovation goes to Michelle Douglass for all the hours she has put into this! Our meeting on Human Trafficking brought out a large number of members. We will continue to be engaged in anti-trafficking efforts. We had a state retreat in AC, and we have a joint Luncheon with Cape May Co. Branch coming up May 14. Be sure to sign up!

Many members have enjoyed participating in our small interest groups, and in several cultural outings, and a technology workshop. Many have donated time ushering at Stockton's Children Theater, and reading at preschools for the Women's Leadership Initiative's "Ready, Set, Read" program. Supplies have been donated for AHEART and The Women's Center. Many scholarships have been given to local women. We had a great Fundraiser, featuring AC Mayor Don Guardian and an excellent Woman of Distinction program, featuring Laura Dulac. Thanks to all who worked hard on these and other events. And last but not least, I want to thank the dedicated Board of Directors for keeping everything running smoothly. Here's to next year. Renew your membership and keep the excitement going!!

May 12 Program - Hear acclaimed medical mystery author Michael Rushnak

Lucy Jerue ljerue@comcast.net

Our final meeting of the year will take place at the Smithville Inn on Tuesday evening May 12. The social hour begins at 5pm. We will be seated for dinner at 5:45pm.

Our guest speaker, Michael Rushnak, is a retired medical doctor who worked for more than three decades in every facet of the health care arena. He is now following his lifelong passion: writing. Michael's novels are medical mysteries that entertain and engage the reader in thrilling cliffhangers. His first novel--TERMINAL NEGLECT was endorsed by NY Times best-selling author, Michael Palmer, as "one of the very best medical thrillers I have read, not recently, EVER!"

Michael has authored the critically acclaimed medical mystery thriller trilogy called The Health Club Mysteries.

The trilogy includes Terminal Neglect (2008), The Savior Vaccine (2011), and Denied (2012). Several of his novels have been endorsed by NY Times best-selling authors. The underlying themes of his novels are based upon many actual experiences from the author's life that have been converted into fictional stories, using layers of imagination such that many readers have labeled his compelling stories as mystery thrilling "faction."

In 2010, The Author's Show selected Michael as one of the "50 Great Writers You Should be Reading."

Michael lives in Jackson, N.J. with his wife. Both of them will be joining us. Michael will have his books available for sale and autograph. This will be a memorable and enjoyable evening. I hope to see you there.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Atlantic County Branch

Dinner Meeting and Installation of Officers

Smithville Inn

Tuesday, May 12

Socialize 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm

\$ 35.00 pp

Menu Choices

Pan Seared Salmon, lobster tomato basil butter

Chicken Breast in a light Dijon cream sauce

Vegetable Aioli with penne pasta and fresh mozzarella

Registration for Smithville Inn May 12 dinner meeting

Name _____ Phone # _____

Entrée Choice _____

Please indicate your seating preference _____

Please mail Reservation Form and your check payable to "AAUW, Atlantic County"
to Helen Riso, 619 Pitney Rd. Absecon, NJ 08201 (641-7085)

Registration deadline is May 5

Financial Report: March 2015

Diana Intenzo diainzo75@comcast.net

Operations Account

Expenditures:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Smithville Dinner deposit | \$ 200.00 |
| Woman of Distinctions Expenses (plaque, flowers, brochures, etc) | 238.10 |
| April Newsletter | 14.01 |
| Supplies | <u>31.22</u> |
| | - 483.33 |

Closing Balance (3/31/15) \$ 3,705.00

Scholarship Account

Income: Woman of Distinction \$ 760.00

Expenditures:

Add'l Scholarship Contribution - 3,600.00

Closing Balance \$ 4,050.59

Dues Renewal

Diana Intenzo diainzo75@comcast.net

Many thanks to the 35 people who have already sent in their dues either by check or online.

AAUW has sent an email notice to members offering an easy way to pay online. If you click on as directed in that email you can pay by credit card without having to fill in your member number or password. It's easy! Give it a try. It really helps me out a great deal.

If you prefer to pay by check, make out your check for \$69 (\$10 for dual members) to AAUW and send to :

Diana Intenzo
619 Lexington Court
Linwood, NJ 08221

Strike now while the iron's hot.

Membership

**Barbara Wolnerman
& MarieTurnbull**
blw425@aol.com



Give a Grad a Gift

With graduation time quickly approaching, it might be time to consider AAUW's "Give a Grad a Gift Program". Members can give recent college graduates (within 2 years) a free one year National Membership at no cost to you or the graduate. What a great way to introduce them to an organization of 170,000 members who believe in and advance equity and education for women, as well as to expand their career and community action opportunities (male graduates welcome). Simply go to www.aauw.org. Then type give a grad a gift in the search box at the top right. Please call or email Barbara with any questions.

With the nice weather finally upon us we look forward to seeing many members at our upcoming events!

REMINDER from Terry Dailey, Corresponding Secretary

Please remember that if you want to continue to receive a mailed paper edition, you must include a second check in the amount of \$20 payable to the Atlantic County AAUW. Your regular \$69 credit card payment or check goes directly to national and only \$10 is returned to us. If you do not send the additional funds, you will need to provide us with an email address or you will be unable to receive your Forum each month.

Careme's

On Thursday, **May 14**, 2015 the Cape May County and the Atlantic County branches of AAUW will meet for a luncheon buffet at **Careme's**, the restaurant of the Academy of Culinary Arts of ACCC, 5100 Black Horse Pike, Mays Landing.

The buffet will begin at 11:30 a.m. Included are soup, salad, 3 entrees served with seasonal vegetables and appropriate starches, carving station, rolls and butter, assorted desserts, coffee hot/cold tea, soft drinks and water service.

All this for \$20! Payment this year will be in advance by mailing a check made payable to AAUW to:

Barbara Heinrichs, 503 Whildam Avenue, N. Cape May, NJ 08204

Please write Careme's on the memo line of your check. **Checks must be received by May 4.**

This is the third year we are holding this event. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet members of our sister branch. Hope to see you there. Gail Vreeland

COLLEGE CONNECTION

Gail Davis ghdath@comcast.net

The Start Smart workshops were to be held on 3 campuses of ACCC. The AC campus was cancelled due to very low signup. The Mays Landing campus had 11 sign ups and I believe 7 attended. Diana Intenzo represented our branch. Barb Williamson conducted the workshop and reported those 7 students were quite interested and receptive. We are attempting to establish dates for Fall workshops since we have a license for 3 years (through '17).

STAR

Carolyn Bassett geoca41@gmail.com

STAR (Sisters Together Against Racism) has been discussing recent disturbing news events involving police perceptions of race. Members are also incorporating insights from *THE NEW JIM CROW* by Michelle Alexander. The next meeting will be held at 1500 Zion Road, in Ilene Demling's office at the back of the medical building. Come **April 27** at 6 to eat something (that you bring yourself) and socialize. The meeting will begin at 7pm. All are welcome.



Gail Vreeland, Carole Zerbe, Marge Coach, and Gail Davis at training to interview student nominees for STEM Teck Trek Camp

Interest Groups

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett geoca41@gmail.com

FROM PORTLAND TO THE CALIFORNIA REDWOODS AND BACK: our favorite places in Oregon will be the topic for the next travel group, **MAY 6**, at 7pm, at Connie Smedley's house. Connie and Don will share pictures and stories from a trip they took in September. It promises to be very interesting. Please let Connie know if you plan to attend.

398-6367 or conniesmedley@hotmail.com.

At our last meeting Terry Dailey gave a comprehensive and fascinating overview of the trip to China that she and John took. She was also the hostess providing refreshments as well as an opportunity to enjoy her lovely home. Did you know fortune cookies were an American invention? (We got to eat some anyway!)

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com

Join the Book Group on **April 29** at Claire Moyer's house for a discussion of "The Innovators" by Walter Isaacson. Our leaders for the evening will be Sally Roik and Mary Hardwick. We will begin promptly at 7:00.

Change of Date: "A Town Like Alice" will be reviewed on **June 17** by Jan Smith. Get ready for our summer meetings by reading "The Forsyte Saga" by John Galsworthy.



Karen Weis and her daughter, Catherine, lead a Book Club discussion

Stockton Children's Theater - Vicki Biron

vickibiron@comcast.net

I could use a couple more ushers for the Bay-Atlantic Symphony Education Concert on Tuesday, **May 5** at 10:30am. Ushers should arrive by 9:45 AM so the doors can open at 10 am. If you would like to usher for this show, please e-mail me at vickibiron@comcast.net, or give me a call at 609-703-3788. Please include your phone # so I can call to remind you that week. If you have already volunteered, thank you.

Ushers needed for Summer Season Shows (10:30am):

- Wed, July 8: The Emperor's New Clothes
- Wed, July 15: Snow White and the Seven Dwarves
- Wed, July 22: The Perfect Dog
- Wed, July 29: Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day
- Wed, Aug 5: The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig

ETHNIC CUISINES

Phyllis Trackman lptrackman@comcast.net

We're having an ethnic dinner (instead of lunch) so our working friends can join us. It will be **June 3** at 6:30 at Pho Life Vietnamese Restaurant, 4215 Black Horse Pike, Hamilton Commons, in the strip center in front of the Regal Theater near 5 Below. Please e-mail Phyllis

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.



Public Policy Update, *Michelle J. Douglass, Esq.*

10 Ways to Get More Women Into Engineering & Tech

Well, Tech Trek of course (which is coming along electrically! We are just \$1920.00 short of our goal, having raised near \$30K), but in the meantime:

1. Take the implicit bias test.

Yes, you. Just because you're reading this article doesn't mean you're not biased. We all are. Even one of the creators of the test, Harvard professor and former AAUW fellow Mahzarin Banaji, found that she had implicit racial and gender biases.

2. Remember that engineers are made, not born.

One of the biggest hurdles to recruiting women is the idea that math and science prowess is inherent. The truth is, **you can learn** to be a great programmer or engineer. The brain is a muscle that needs to be worked to get stronger.

3. Let the girls in your life tinker with things, break toys, get dirty, and fail.

And let them know that adversity is common in these fields. Learning from and **moving past failure** is part of the design process.

4. Know that Title IX is about more than athletics.

It also applies to STEM education. If your school is limiting opportunities for women and girls to pursue STEM, it might be violating Title IX.

5. Spread the word that engineering and computing fields have enormous social impact.

Women, on average, prioritize "communal goals" in their careers, meaning that they value working with and helping people. Engineers and tech workers can engineer an artificial limb, come up with solutions for drought and famine, and **prevent cyberattacks**.

6. If you're a woman who works in engineering or tech, **seek out opportunities to serve as a role model** for girls and young women through groups and events that celebrate women in your field, such as the **Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing** or the **Society of Women Engineers**.

7. If you're a man who works in engineering or tech, **refuse to sit on panels that don't have at least one woman.**

It's true that there are fewer women than men in these fields, but there aren't *none*. Send the message that women belong in engineering and tech by encouraging conferences to ask more women to speak.

8. If you're an employer, **hold managers accountable for their hiring and promotion decisions.**

Make sure they can back their choices up without invoking gender stereotypes or assumptions.

9. If you're a manager, **try removing gender info from job applications and evaluations.**

Our research shows that women workers and applicants face discrimination even when their experience is the same as their male counterparts.

10. If you're at or near the top of an organization, **make it clear and explicit that attracting and retaining more women to do technical work (not just administrative) is a priority for your organization.**

Doing simple things like including a diversity statement on job listings and getting men engaged with the issue goes a long way.



Marga Matheny displaying a Chinese silk scarf as part of her talk on China



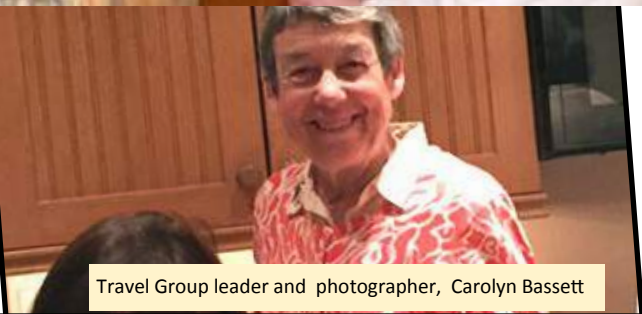
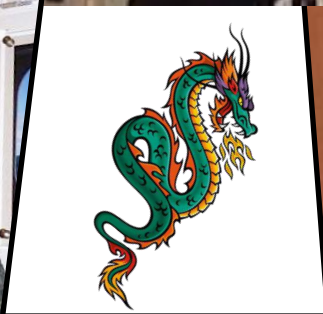
Travel Group attendees



Travel Group attendees at Terry Dailey's presentation on touring China



Terry with miniature of terra cotta warrior



Travel Group leader and photographer, Carolyn Bassett

STEM Tech Trek Camp

Volunteers attending training to interview student nominees.



Cat Conin, Karen Weis, Shelly Shapiro, Mary Hardwick, and Pat Quinn



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| | 4/27 STAR 6pm | | 4/29 Book Group 7pm | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Ushers at Stockton Theatre | 6 Travel Club 7pm | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | Dinner & Installa- tion of Officers Smithville Inn 5pm | 13 | 14 Careme's 11:30 am | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 33 |
| 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

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

DATED MATERIAL