



# THE FORUM

Atlantic County Branch

January 2016

Volume 115, No. 5

On the Web: [Atlantic County](#)

[State](#)

[National](#)



## President's Message

**Diana Intenzo** [diainzo75@comcast.net](mailto:diainzo75@comcast.net)

Greetings and Happy New Year to all. We're on track to continue the year with exciting branch activities, including STEM tech programs, reading sessions for the Women's Leadership Initiative, Children's Theater outings, the Woman of Distinction celebration and more....

Here are some upcoming events scheduled for the next six weeks. Check out the details in specific articles in this edition of The Forum.

### **January 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Saturday:**

Hope to see all of you at this first meeting of the new year which will highlight the Status of Women in Atlantic County – a study conducted by the Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women. We're meeting at the Linwood Library at 1 pm.

A brief "business" meeting will precede the program.

### **January 8: Tween Tech one-day event: Stockton**

The Cape May Branch is sponsoring this AAUW stem event and is asking for volunteer help with greeting the students when they arrive by bus, checking credentials, conducting students to class rooms, handing out evaluation forms, and stuffing book bags a few days before the event. See you there....

### **February 9: Chinese New Year Luncheon**

Phyllis Trackman has arranged for a lunch at a local Chinese restaurant where new year celebrations will take place...dancing lions and the like. You'll have to pay in advance by a certain date, so check the particulars in Phyllis' writeup. Sounds like fun! Be sure to contact Phyllis directly [lptrackman@comcast.net](mailto:lptrackman@comcast.net).

## Status of Women: Atlantic County

We begin the new year with a very scintillating program to be presented on **Saturday, January 9** at the **Linwood Library, 1pm**. We're going to hear about a study on The Status of Women in Atlantic County that was recently conducted by the prestigious Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women (ACACW).

This ACACW study focuses on numerous aspects of life for women in Atlantic County, including demographics, employment and economic standing, education, marital status, health care, and more.

We're all aware of our own well being and that of our acquaintances, but what kind of overall profile is projected for women in the county as a whole? It will be interesting to find out.

Faculty and students from Stockton University assisted the ACACW in compiling the report, which follows the guidelines set down by the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington. Some of these scholars will participate in the presentation, including Kristin Jacobson, Dr. Betsy Erbaugh, Dr. Ellen Mutari, and Mariam Majd, one of the student participants. The co-chairs of the ACACW, Amy Houck and Rita Marie King are also scheduled to attend.

So we're set to learn a great deal about the women in our general area of South Jersey. Lots of food for thought. You won't want to miss it!

(Diana Intenzo [diainzo75@comcast.net](mailto:diainzo75@comcast.net))

### Inside this issue:

President's Message; January Program	1
Scholarships; Tech Camps; Ushers; Editor's Corner	2
Interest Groups	3
STEM Fundraising	4
Public Policy	5
Photos	6
Photos; Calendar	7

## Scholarships - Gail Davis & Karen Poorman

ghdath@comcast.net

CONGRATULATIONS ATLANTIC COUNTY AAUW. Due to a wonderful scholarship luncheon we have been able to again contribute \$8,000 to ACCC for 5 scholarships: 3 at \$2,000 for students graduating and pursuing a baccalaureate degree at a NJ COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY (one must go to Stockton) AND 2 for \$1,000 each for continuing students at ACCC- all with a strong preference (but not limited to) for those in STEM areas. Nice job to all who contributed!

## TECH TREK- Gail Davis ghdath@comcast.net

I have assumed the job of Student Selection. Have yet to 'wrap my brain' around the enormity of this task as we are including Camden County with us and will have 20 students from North, Middle and southern NJ. We have volunteers from chapters in those areas who will be interviewing those girls/families who have been nominated. It's a big job with a timeline- so wish me luck!

### TECH INITIATIVES (other than TECH TREK)

FRIDAY, Jan. 8 from 9-3 at Stockton for 6th grade girls -  
TWEEN TECH

MONDAY, May 9 from 9-3 at ACCC FOR GIRLS 9th grade  
through 11th

Teachers of Math, Science and Technology from the following counties : Essex, Passaic, Nutley, Camden, Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Monmouth are invited to nominate a maximum of 2 students per school for possible selection to attend the camp. Nomination forms can be found at <https://techtrek-nj.aauw.net/forms/>.

AAUW is looking for a consultant to work with cyber security curriculum for middle school girls and perform virtual training for teachers spread throughout the country. Proposal deadline is 11:59 PM (EDT) Friday, January 29, 2016 to [stem@aauw.org](mailto:stem@aauw.org) (Shared by Michelle Douglass)

### USHERS STILL NEEDED

#### FOR STOCKTON'S CHILDREN'S THEATER

**Vicki Biron** [vickibiron@comcast.net](mailto:vickibiron@comcast.net)

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the Nutcracker.

I still need ushers for the coming season of Stockton Children's Theater. The show dates are:

Somers Point Jazz Education Performance on Wednesday, **April 13**, 2016 at 10:30am.

Bay-Atlantic Symphony Education Performance on Tuesday, **May 24**, 2016 at 10:30am

If you'd like to usher for one or more shows, please send an e- mail to [vickibiron@comcast.net](mailto:vickibiron@comcast.net), or give me a call at 609-703-3788.

Ushers need to be at the Stockton PAC no later than 9:45 A M. Once you sign up, I will give you a reminder call a few days ahead.

If you have already signed up, thank you.

### Editor's Corner: A Place To Share Good News

**Submit your news to Mary R** [mrydz@yahoo.com](mailto:mrydz@yahoo.com)

Lucy Jerue wrote a piece of creative nonfiction entitled "Seventeen and Kissed at the Steel Pier." It has been accepted for inclusion in the soon to be published book Speaking of Atlantic City, A Collection of Memories.

*Way to Go Lucy !!*



# *Interest Groups*

## **Travel Group**

**Carolyn Bassett** geoca41@gmail.com  
609-927-9095

The next Travel Group will feature a presentation on Kenya by Jackie Hall-Smith. It will be at Carolyn Bassett's house at 7 pm on Wednesday, **January 6**. Jackie has traveled widely in Africa, and she has previously given programs for us on Ghana and Ethiopia. She has many souvenirs from the countries she has visited as well as being able to share her experiences. Please email or call Carolyn if you plan to attend.

Save **March 16** for the BALTICS. Audrey Owen and Bonnie Warwick went on a fantastic trip to Baltic capitals and St Petersburg this fall, and they will tell us all about it on March 16. Place to be announced later.

## **STAR**

**Carolyn Bassett** geoca41@gmail.com

STAR (Sisters Together Against Racism) will meet on **January 25** at 6:30 pm at Ilene Demling's office of Allied Health at the the Zion Professional Building at Zion Rd and Rt 9 in Northfield. There will be a discussion entitled "LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD" in which members will address aspects of STAR's 19 year history and elicit suggestions of where we are going. All are welcome.

## **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.

## **Book Group**

**Mary Lou Breidenstine** breidensti@aol.com

The next Book Club meeting will be at Mary Lou Breidenstine's on **January 20**. Gail Zona will lead the discussion of "The Secret Chord" by Geraldine Brooks. The discussion will begin at 7:00. Plan ahead by reading "Lila" by Marilyn Robinson for February 24. All are welcome.

## **AAUW celebrates the Chinese New Year**

**Phyllis Trackman** lptrackman@comcast.net

We will be celebrating the Chinese New Year on **February 9, 2016**. It is the year of the Monkey according to the Chinese Zodiac. Our lunch will consist of Dim Sum, which are small plates of mostly shrimp or pork dumplings.

Our shared plates will be pre-ordered in order to give us a variety of dishes. During our lunch the traditional Lion dance will be performed with drummers to bring good luck. We will have red envelopes to "feed" the lions good luck money. Our celebration will be at Asian City restaurant, 748 Black Horse Pike, Pleasantville. Pleasantville Shopping Center, next to the Post Office. 12:00pm Feb 9.

Cost \$20 per person in advance. Checks must be received by Jan 25, made out to AAUW/ memo Chinese New Year. Checks are to be sent to Helen Riso, 619 Pitney Rd., Absecon, NJ 08201.





### **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)**

Stockton University has partnered with AAUW National, AAUW-NJ, and AAUW Atlantic and Cape May Counties to provide a Tech Trek camp opportunity to 60 middle school girls (entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade) for a weeklong, immersive STEM camp program.

#### **CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?**

Send Tax Deductible gifts made out to **AAUW Tech Trek NJ-Stockton Galloway**

Peg Fiore K-213, Stockton University Foundation, 101 Vera King Farris Drive, Galloway, NJ 08205  
Contact Peggy at 609.626.3590 or [peg.fiore@stockton.edu](mailto:peg.fiore@stockton.edu)

To Volunteer:

Dawn Watkins, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Tel: 609.652.4768 Email: [dawn.watkins@stockton.edu](mailto:dawn.watkins@stockton.edu)

#### **Giving Report: A total of \$2,500 has been received from members and friends since October**

\$1,000

Anonymous

\$500

Dr. Jo Frances Stow

\$25 - \$250

Nine of our own AAUW Atlantic Branch members and friends have already made donations!

**TWEEN TECH** one-day conference at Stockton University  
(to recruit and raise awareness among 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls)  
Friday, January 8, 2016

**TECH TREK CAMP** at Stockton University  
July 17 – 23, 2016

**2015 is Nearing an End.**  
***A look back this year on public policy issues affecting women.***  
**By: Michelle J. Douglass, Esq.**

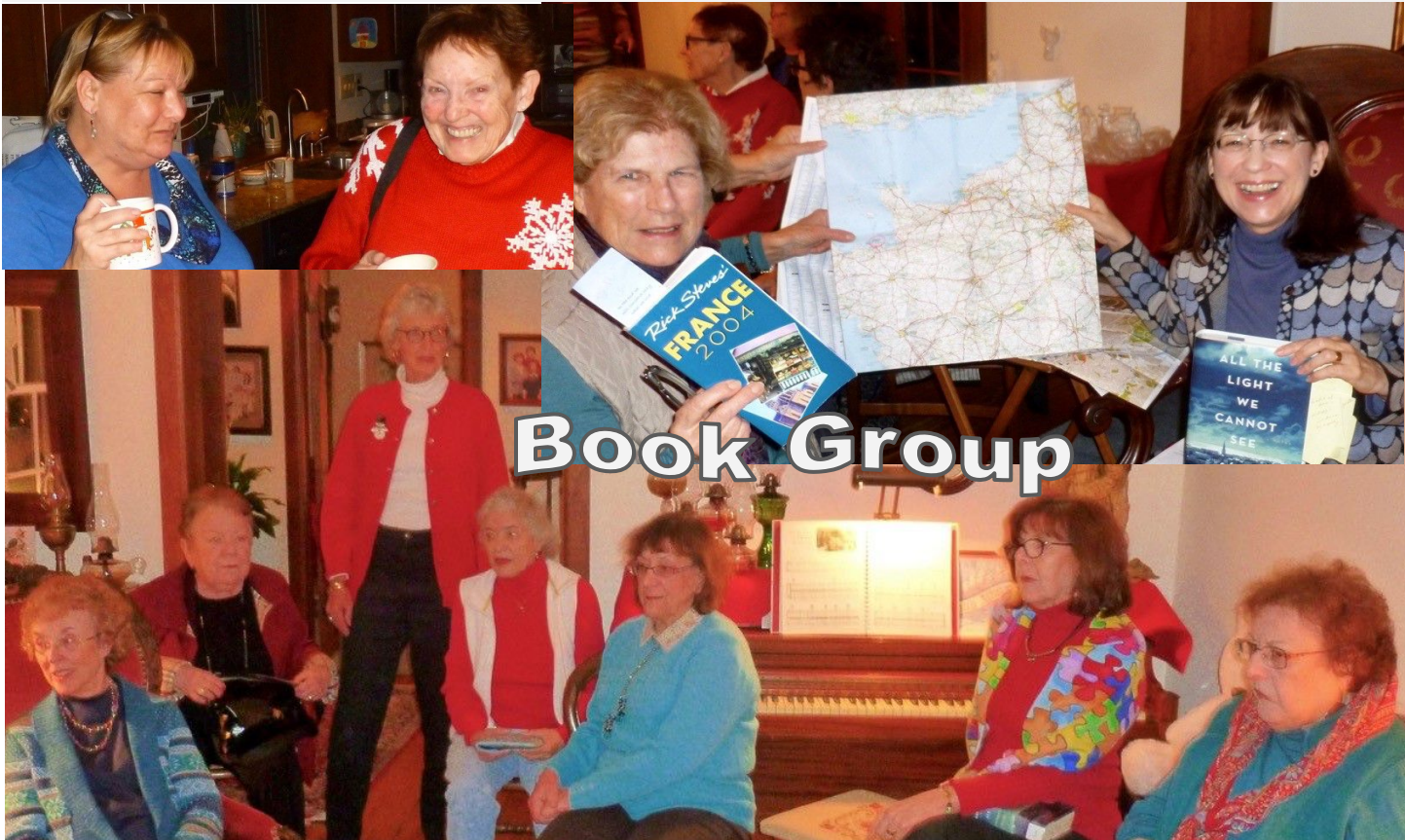
A look back at history shows that women have made great strides in the fight for equality, including women's suffrage and inroads in equal opportunity in the workplace and education. Despite the tremendous progress made in the struggle for gender equality, women still face violence, discrimination, and institutional barriers to equal participation in society. A look back this year reveals several significant public policy events affecting women.

- *More and More Employers Are Getting the Memo on Pregnancy Discrimination*-Employers may finally be getting the memo that if they keep forcing pregnant women off the job, they could end up paying a steep price. And the fact is women should never have had to sue their employers in the first place. The simplest and best solution is to pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. This bipartisan federal bill would affirmatively require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to women who need them during pregnancy, so long as it doesn't impose an undue burden on the employer.
- *ACLU Settles Case of Nursing Assistant Pushed Out of Job While Pregnant*- Several cases have settled since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last spring in *Young v. UPS* that employer policies denying women accommodations for pregnancy-related conditions, while providing the same accommodations to other workers with similar limitations, can violate sex discrimination laws.
- *Department of Defense Opens All Military Combat Jobs to Women with No Exceptions*-The following comment can be attributed to Zoe Bedell, plaintiff in *Hegar v. Carter*: "I am delighted with today's announcement. Women have been serving honorably and capably for decades, and the decision to open all combat positions to women, with no exceptions, shows that Secretary Carter and the Department of Defense recognize and respect women's contributions. We will be following the release of the implementation plans closely, however, and we certainly hope that the service branches demonstrate the same commitment to ensuring we have the strongest security forces possible."
- *Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin v. Van Hollen*-The ACLU of Wisconsin, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin have filed a lawsuit challenging a state law that places medically unnecessary restrictions on abortion providers that would severely restrict women's access to safe and legal abortion in a state where access is already heavily restricted.
- *There are two pregnant women working in the White House* – another first for motherhood and politics. One of them, Communications Director Jen Psaki, was pregnant when she was hired. She had concerns. "Instead McDonough — and later Obama himself — assured Psaki they would accommodate her needs as a new mom amid the West Wing's nonstop demands. She is one of two pregnant women serving as assistant to the president — a first for such a top level adviser in Obama's presidency and practically unheard of under previous presidents."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW MOVING INTO 2016

- **78 cents**-Women still make just 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. Black women earn only 64 cents and Latinas only 54 cents for each dollar earned by white men.
- **1 in 4**-The U.S. Department of Justice reports that approximately one in four homeless women is homeless because of violence committed against her.
- **Over 1,000** public K-12 schools in the United States have single-sex education programs. Many rely on discredited science and gender stereotypes.









# January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Travel Group 7pm	7	8 Tween Tech 9-3pm;Stockton	9 Status of Women 1pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Book Club 7pm	21	22	23
24	25 STAR 6:30 pm	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.