



THE FORUM

Atlantic County Branch
December 2017
Volume 117, No. 4

Celebrating Our 100th Anniversary

President's Message

Linda Harmon linda.harmon@gmail.com

Greetings and happy holidays! Our **November Scholarship Fundraiser and 100th Anniversary Celebration** was a great success. Thanks to our wonderful committee headed by Jackie Shelley Tasoff: Diane Alverson, Carolyn Bassett, MaryLou Breidenstine, Shelley Cohen, Gail Davis, Lory Golden Lisa Goodwin, Stella Hordes, Anne McLaughlin, Ann Marchesani, Audrey Moloney, Helen Riso, Loretta Scheetz, Connie Smedley, Kathy Ziegenfus, and Carol Zerbe. Bravo, job well done!

This is a last call for our **December 2nd Holiday Luncheon** at Northfield Library! See more information enclosed. I hope you will be able to join us for a couple of hours out of your busy schedule!

For many, the exciting trip to see *Wicked* is just around the corner. Watch for further details from Karen Poorman and have a wonderful time!

Speaking of right around the corner, we are in desperate need of volunteers for **Tween Tech, January 5, 2018 at Stockton University**. Please consider either a morning, afternoon, or the whole day to support our STEM program with Stockton. Contact person: Gail Davis ghdath@comcast.net or 609-513-6281. See further details inside.

The next Board meeting will be **January 9** – both **AACCCI** and **AAUW Boards** will meet at the Shore Diner at 5:30 pm. We are in need of a new logo for our newly established AACCCI – see details in the Forum.

Enjoy the holidays with your friends and families!
Linda



Programs

Karen Poorman karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone who has participated in our meetings this year and thank you for all of the enthusiasm. We have socialized, sung together, brought enough food for a small country to the pot luck, answered "What is a stem cell?" and traveled back in time to remember those who started our journey. The woman's center was very grateful for our donations and the scholarship fund is growing.

Moving forward:

The holidays are here. It is a perfect time to video your female family and friends for the "Wisdom of the Ages" video. See your e-mail for the questions and instructions. We would like as much participation as possible.

The same e-mail has information about the February meeting in Ocean City. By popular request, we are holding another computer literacy workshop facilitated by our own members who will do small group or one on one instruction. This time, we want you to tell us what you want to learn. We need your input.

The trip to see *Wicked* in New York City will leave the Frank Theater parking lot in the Shore Mall on the Outback side on **December 16** at 9:45 AM. If you are going and did not receive details, check your SPAM mail and contact karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com if you do not have the instructions.

From the program committee: Karen Poorman, Michelle Douglass, Connie Smedley, Carol Zerbe, Diane Koob (and Debbie Davies)

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AAUW Atlantic County
AAUW cordially invites you to our holiday luncheon

Saturday December 2, 2017

Northfield Library, 241 W Mill Rd, Northfield, NJ 08225

Cost: \$10 Luncheon: noon

As is tradition, Donation Items:

1. Voluntary WaWa gift cards for the Women's Center clients.
2. Gift cards from fast food restaurants for the Human Trafficking workers at the Center who rescue hungry victims off the street.

Please mail form and **check payable to "AAUW "**

To: Linda Harmon 31 Jill Ave., Marmora, NJ 08223

Name: _____ Phone: _____

DEADLINE: Wednesday November 29

From the Desk of Gail Davis

ghdath@comcast.net

Scholarships

Thank you to all who attended and participated (either in person or by tax deductible donation) to our SUCCESSFUL Scholarship luncheon.. I have yet to hear the final numbers, but know we should be able to make decent contributions to both Stockton and ACCC!!

The other event that contributes to our scholarship funds is our Distinguished Woman of the year on SAINT PATRICKS DAY!!! Details soon from that committee.

A HUGE thank you to all members who solicited and contributed to our raffle baskets!! They really helped insure the success of our luncheon!

Gail Davis and Karen Poorman

STEM

Please email me Ghdath@comcast.net if you are able to assist at TWEEN TECH on January 5 at Stockton, 8am- 2:30pm, lunch provided.

And- when the call goes out please sign up to interview students, serve as dorm moms, day counsellors, or one or more day volunteers at TECH TREK (July 15-21). This is very much a 'pet project' of our chapter and it is sooooo fun and rewarding!!!

Gail Davis

Membership

Lynne Walters - rrwalters321@hotmail.com

Please welcome and add our new members to your membership list.

Katie Gaines

7808 Atlantic Ave., Margate, NJ 08406
Cell – 215-588-7376 Kabil3@comcast.net
BA American University; MLS University of Pittsburgh

Bonnie Warwick

125 Coolidge Avenue, Absecon, NJ 08201
609-645-8759; cell 609-432-3845 Bwarwick620@gmail.com
BA University of New Hampshire

Joan Talarico-Hunt

705 First St., Northfield, NJ 08225
609-484-1118; cell 609-442-8621 jtalarico@petrocohen.com
BA University of Pittsburgh

Caren Fitzpatrick

2000 Franklin Blvd., Linwood, NJ 08221
Cell – 609-335-5614 Carenfitz@comcast.net
BSBA Thomas Edison; MBA Stockton

Susan Wolfe

9 Poppy Rd., Egg Harbor Township 08234
Cell – 609-432-1664 Wolfesus@gmail.com
BFA University of the Arts; MEd Tyler College of Art

Volunteers Needed For Food Bank

Food Distribution for Atlantic Cape students will be at the Worthington Atlantic City, Cape May County and Mays Landing Campuses on Thursday, **December 7** from noon to 2:30pm at each location. Many thanks to AAUW volunteers for supporting this initiative. Please contact Jean McAlister 204-1250 or mcaliste@atlantic.edu to volunteer or for more information. No lifting required.

Wanted: A New Logo for AAUW Atlantic County Charitable Corporation, Inc.

This past fall, our branch established a 501C3 charitable corporation – the AAUW Atlantic County Charitable Corporation, Incorporated. This allows all donations for scholarships and STEM programs to be tax deductible. Our new AACCCI is now in need of a logo and letterhead design to be used when we wish to thank donors for their generosity. **Your help is needed!** If you have the artistic gene, please have some fun, play around with the idea and submit a suggested design! We **can not** use the AAUW logo due to legalities.

All designs will be due by January 8, 2018 to be considered at the next AACCCI board meeting on January 9. Submit designs to: Linda Harmon linda.harmon@gmail.com or mail a hard copy to 31 Jill Ave Marmora, NJ 08223

Ready Set Read

Mary Brodsky mabrodsky27@gmail.com

I just wanted to update everyone about the program. Some administrative changes at United Way have slowed down the planning involved with Ready Set Read. We are trying to move forward and hope that we will soon have progress to report along with more details about the program, as well as scheduling. Stay tuned and thanks for your patience.

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

The committee of Lucy Jerue, Connie Smedley, Audrey Owen are happy to announce that our branch realized **\$590.00 toward our Scholarship Program** this year.

Many of us were at our local Boscov's on Tuesday, October 17 and enjoyed the fun, saved on purchases with our 25% OFF SHOPPING PASSES and added to our goal of advancing educational opportunities for women.

Thanks to all who supported the program.
Gail Zona

Calendar 2017 – 2018

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Dec 2, 2017	Holiday Luncheon	12pm	Northfield Library
Dec 16, 2017	Theater Bus Trip to NYC	10am – 10pm	TBD
Jan 9, 2018	AAUW Board Meeting/ ACCCI Board Meeting	5:30pm	Shore Diner
Feb 24, 2018	Branch Meeting	1pm	Ocean City Library
Mar 08, 2018	AAUW Board Meeting	5:30pm	Shore Diner
Mar 17, 2018	Woman of Distinction Lunch	12pm	Linwood CC
Mar 24, 2018	AAUW NJ Annual Meeting	8am- 2pm	Forsgate CC
Apr 21, 2018	Branch Meeting	12pm	Forsythe Center
May 01, 2018	AAUW Board Meeting/ ACCCI Board Meeting	5:30pm	Shore Diner
May 14, 2018	Installation Dinner	5pm	TBD

Interest Groups

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine breidensti@aol.com

Gail Zona will lead the **December 13** Book Club selection of I Was Amelia Earhart by Jane Mendelsohn. This book has been described as "a fantasy that is surprisingly believable" and should provide a good basis for an interesting discussion. We meet at 7:00 at Jan Smith's house. Please let Jan know if you plan to attend.

Prepare ahead for **January 27** by reading Days Without End by Sebastian Barry. Ann-Maria Guevara will lead the group. All are welcome.

Sunday Movie and Dinner Discussion

Join us for selected movies on Sundays when a good movie comes to town. If you are not receiving Movie Outings emails, please email Ruth Traa ruthtraa@earthlink.net.



Ethnic Lunch

Phyllis Trackman lptrackman@comcast.net

This is a luncheon group interested in enjoying international cuisines. We meet at different restaurants from time to time during the year.

STOCKTON'S CHILDREN'S THEATER

Vicki Biron vickibiron@comcast.net

I once again need volunteers to usher for the children's shows at Stockton. The dates and titles are listed below. Shows will take place in the main theater. Please arrive by 9:45 AM. You can park in parking lot 6. A few days before the show I will email parking passes as you will need one to park. If you'd like to volunteer for one, or more, or all shows, please email me at vickibiron@comcast.net, or text me at 609-703-3788. If you have already volunteered, thank you!



The shows are:

Friday, December 8, 10:30am: Atlantic City Ballet: The Nutcracker

Friday, February 16, 10:30am: I Have a Dream: MLK Jr.

Tues, May 8, 10:30am: Bay Atlantic Symphony Education Concert

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett geoca41@gmail.com

RWANDA January 13 1pm to 3pm. The Travel Group will meet at the Linwood Public Library at 305 Davis Ave. in Linwood to hear a presentation by Sarah Albertson. She is on the faculty at Stockton University as a member of the Holocaust Studies Department. Sarah has spent a significant amount of time in Rwanda and is eager to speak about all that Rwanda has to offer visitors. Friends and husbands are welcome. Please let Carolyn know if you plan to come so we can set up enough chairs and plan the refreshments.

STAR

Carolyn Bassett geoca41@gmail.com

STAR (Sisters Together Against Racism) will meet Monday night November 27 to watch a film entitled THE END OF POVERTY? THINK AGAIN. It questions why poverty exists when there is so much wealth in the world. "A must-see for anyone wanting to understand not only the US economic system but the foundations of today's global economy.

Time: 6:30 snacks 7pm program.

Place: Mainland Professional Office Building, Allied Health Office, 1750 Zion Rd, Northfield, at the corner of Rt 9 and Zion Rd.

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.

Sexual Harassment. That's a Girl Thing. No It's Not, It's a Person Thing.**Michelle J. Douglass, Esq.****Public Policy**

Sexual Harassment is in the forefront again. Yet, until we collectively as a people, and that means you too ladies, refuse to accept and foster notions of what is and what is not a girl thing or a boy thing, as opposed to a person thing, the imbalances cast by such differentiation will persist throughout the ages.

No doubt about it, women are biologically different than men. I love being a biological women and being feminine at the same time. I don't like being treated negatively or differently, however, in the terms and conditions of my employment **because of my gender**. I abhor it. Sexual harassment is about more than sex. Its about being treated in the workplace, professional or social situations in a manner which is offensive because of that person's gender. It is always associated with a power imbalance.

As a lawyer specializing in the field of employment and civil rights law, I have not only represented women over the years who have experienced blatant and subtle forms of sexual harassment, I too have encountered it throughout my career. I have chosen to permit it, ignore it or politely deal with it because I thought it best for my career. I recognized that certain Judges could make my legal career difficult and hence, affect not only the source of my income but the fates of my clients and their respective cases. Was my decision one of least resistance? Did I go along to get along? I ask these questions now in the wake of the recent allegations of sexual harassment against high profile men.

In speaking with a female colleague and attorney who was elected to political office this November, we shared stories of encounters with men in our professional careers that we deemed to be sexual harassment. We both chalked up our experiences as distasteful and rationalized away taking formal corrective action due to being "tough" lawyers with higher thresholds for accepting sexual harassment. In retrospect, had I been completely honest with myself and my colleague, I would attribute my failure to take any formal action to fear, I just never wanted to admit it.

It is hard to speak out against sexual harassment.

Fixing this problem isn't just about punishing men. It's about making sure women have ways to report grievances that go beyond vague directives to talk to their managers (who may have harassed them) or file a complaint with HR (which is sometimes more worried about protecting the company than helping employees). It's about giving women access to the career opportunities men enjoy, so they're not forced to avoid predators while men benefit from their mentorship. Ultimately, it's about making women equal participants in the workplace.

We live in a society where women (and men) are conditioned from birth to understand a certain notion about what it means to "be female." The lines of distinction are drawn between girl colors, girl toys and girl activities, all of which are distinct and separate from those for boys. My belief is that change starts at the home by teaching our girls and boys through our words, actions and experiences that it is important to respect gender equality. As long as women act as, or are regarded as, second-class citizens at home, they will be second class citizens at work, and that means they will never be safe from predatory men.



Ethnic Luncheon Group — Chinese Cuisine



December

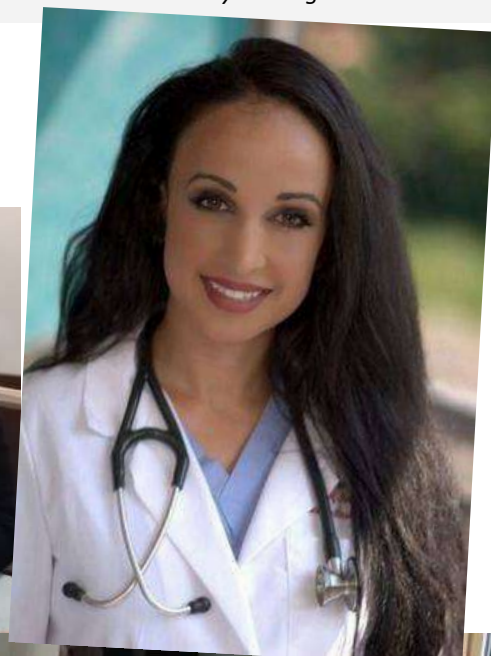


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	Holiday Luncheon
3	4	5	6	7 Food Bank	8 Usher at Stockton	9
10	11	12	13 Book Group	14	15	16 WICKED in NYC
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Jan. 1	2	3	4	5 TWEEN TECH at Stockton	6

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.

October 14 Meeting

Dr. Nina Radcliff spoke on new directions in women's health.





Mary and Phil Ingraham presenting their program on *The Search for Amelia Earhart*.



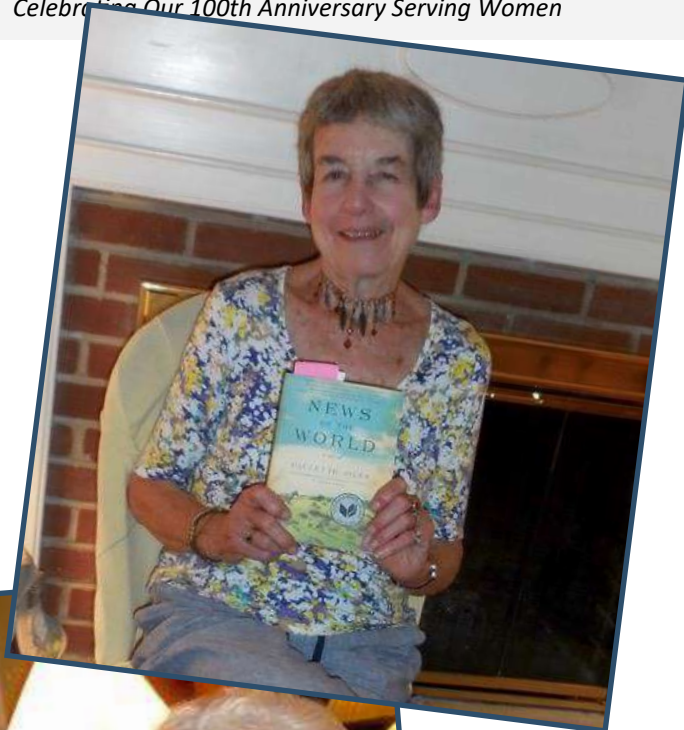
Gail Davis and Linda Harmon
AAUW meeting in Philadelphia

Ushering at
Stockton Children's
Theatre



Linda Harmon, Debbie Walker, Connie Smedley, and Gail Davis.
Cape May Co. AAUW 50th anniversary dinner—Oct. 3

Book Group



Volunteering at all three campuses of Atlantic Cape Community College on Nov. 14



Gail Davis and Linda Harmon staffing the donation box pick-up at the Mays Landing Campus.



Ann Marchesani and Debbie Walker at the Cape May County Campus.



Lynne Walters, Beverly Schechtman and Helen Walsh at the Atlantic City Campus.