



# THE FORUM

Atlantic County Branch

April 2018

Volume 117, No. 8

## *Celebrating Our 100th Anniversary*

### President's Message

**Linda Harmon** linda.harmon@gmail.com

In last April's Forum, I started with smiles in my words of flowers blooming and spring all around us. As I write this, ice pellets are pounding on my window and snow is starting to fall. In spite of a very cold winter bringing us into spring, great things continue to happen in AAUW Atlantic County!

Our ***Woman of Distinction*** honoring Meghan Wren was a wonderful afternoon. Joining us in celebrating Meghan were Senator Jeff Van Drew and Atlantic County Freeholder Maureen Kern. Maureen also presented a recognition award from Representative Frank LoBiondo; Dennis Levinson sent a proclamation for Meghan. Thank you to Audrey Owen and her committee for all of their hard work on the event which raised over \$1300 for scholarships.

**Teen Tech** is May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8 am – 2 pm at Atlantic Cape Community College, Mays Landing Campus. Please contact Dottie Pearson if you are able to help as a volunteer. [pearson@princeton.edu](mailto:pearson@princeton.edu) or 609-898-4585. We have 120 girls coming and you are needed!

**Time to Vote** – It is that time of year again to vote for the next years officers and chairs for 2018 – 2019. See the proposed slate in the newsletter. Join us at the Forsythe Wildlife Refuge on **April 21 at 10 am** to make your vote count and then tour an awesome facility.

**AAUW National is once again changing our bylaws.** See details in this newsletter. You have the opportunity to voice concerns/comments to National before the **vote on April 25<sup>th</sup>**. You can also view more information on AAUW.org. If you need your member id number, email me and I'll be glad to provide it to you.

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### Edwin Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

A "Talk & Tour" April 21, 10:00am

**Carol Zerbe** [czpaints@verizon.net](mailto:czpaints@verizon.net)

Mark your calendars now for a unique experience at the Edwin Forsythe National Wildlife refuge in Oceanville on Saturday the 21st at 10:00 a.m. We will gather in the Visitor Center's meeting room with Director Virginia Rettig. She will present a history of the refuge, the impact of "Sandy", recovery efforts and interesting sightings. Following her talk and with good weather there will be the option of participating in an auto caravan on the 8 mile Wildlife Drive with Virginia leading and making several stops along the way. Bring your binoculars or sign out a pair at the desk and get ready for an informative fun experience! There is no cost to attend this event. Our branch will make a donation to the "Friends of Forsythe". Lunch is on your own but we suggest Fred & Ethel's in Smithville or Romanelli's Garden Cafe on New York Rd.

We would like a head count so if you're a definite "yes" please contact Diane Koob at either 609-412-0967 or her e-mail: [dwkoob@gmail.com](mailto:dwkoob@gmail.com)

**Directions:** the refuge address is 800 Great Creek Rd., Oceanville, NJ, 08231 Phone # 609-652-1665, website is Edwin Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, choose "visit." Parking: Left side of entrance road Great Creek Rd. Enter building at door facing the parking lot. Meeting room is left off the reception/entrance area.

### Save The Date - May 14

#### Wisdom of the Ages-May Installation Dinner

Our nine month project of videoing members, and their friends and families by asking them specific questions will be presented to the branch on May 15th after dinner. We are comparing the responses of different generations of women to the same questions. We are still collecting videos. If you would like to be sent another list of the questions, don't hesitate to e-mail Karen Poorman at [karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com](mailto:karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com). We can use more teen responses and member responses are desired. Remember to get parent permission for anyone under 18 years old (You can video the permission) and to film in landscape. Text the individual videos to 609-335-4335 with your name. We will not use all videos because the ones with common answers will be redundant. We hope that you can be a part of this project.

## Proposed Slate of AAUW Atlantic County Officers 2018-2019

Co President: Linda Harmon & Debbie Walker  
 VP Program Chair: Karen Poorman  
 VP Membership: Lynne Walters  
 Treasurer: Beverly Schechtman  
 Recording Secretary: Diane Koob  
 Corresponding Secretary: Kris Baker  
 Co Fundraiser: Gail Davis & Carol Zerbe  
 STEM: Gail Davis

### Elected Chairs:

Digital Editor: Carol Spina  
 Public Information: Shelley Cohen  
 STAR Liaison: Carolyn Bassett  
 Public Policy: Michelle Douglass  
 Special Events Coordinator: Helen Riso  
 Historian: Unfilled

Respectfully submitted,  
 Connie Smedley and Carolyn Bassett

## From the Desk of Gail Davis

ghdath@comcast.net

### STEM

TEEN TECH is **May 23** from 8-2:30 at ATLANTIC CAPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE- Mays Landing (at the gym- opposite Caremes). There is a short logistics meeting on the 22nd from 11:15-12:15. We need 15-20 members to lead groups to and from workshops. Please let Dottie Pearson know if you can help (pearson@princeton.edu or 609-651-7126(cell) or 609-898-4585 (home) if you can assist. Lunch is provided.

### TECH TREK

will happen **July 15-21** for 60 girls. We have 114 nominated and applied students in 19 of 21 NJ counties. Atlantic county alone has 20 and our great volunteers are busily interviewing the girls and their family. Acceptance and wait list letters will be sent April 17.

Our fundraising needs are ongoing and I do invite you all to take a day to visit CAMP or sign up to lead groups to classes and workshops. Please let me know if you can. Ghdath@comcast.net

**Tax time** - \$56 is tax deductible and, of course, 100% of anything you donate to scholarships or Tech Trek is deductible. Thank you for supporting our Woman of Distinction luncheon.

**Gail Davis**

## "Woman of Distinction 2018" Audrey Owen, Chairperson

The "Woman of Distinction 2018" luncheon on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Linwood Country Club honored Meghan Wren, founder of the Bayshore Discovery Project. The event was enjoyed and well received by members and guests.

Ms. Wren received commendations by invited guests Sen. Jeff Van Drew and Atlantic County Freeholder Maureen Kern. President Linda Harmon presented the honoree with an attractive framed citation from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson and a trophy from the Atlantic Co. Branch. Claire Moyer introduced Meghan Wren who presented an informative, interesting power point program on the development and ongoing mission of the Bayshore Discovery Project.

AAUW A.C. Branch "Special Events" coordinator, Helen Riso was recognized and wished warm greetings on her "99 years young" Birthday! Many thanks to the members of the "WOD" committee who helped to make the event a success. They were: Diane Alverson, Carolyn Bassett, Tula Christopoulos, Shelley Cohen, Linda Harmon, Anne McLaughlin, Claire Moyer, Helen Riso, and Gail Zona.



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

**Atlantic County Branch**

**Dinner Meeting and Installation of Officers**

**Historic Smithville Inn**

**Monday, May 14**

**Socialize 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm**

**\$ 40.00 pp**

Featuring

***Wisdom of the Ages***

**Menu Choices**

Grilled Salmon with Lobster Tomato Basil Butter Sauce

Chicken Francaise with Sautéed Artichokes, Roasted Red Pepper, Lemon Capers Beurre

Grilled Flat Iron Steak with Sautéed Mushrooms, Onions, Herb Butter

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**Registration for Installation Dinner Meeting - May 14**

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 7**

# Interest Groups

## Conversational Spanish Jeannette Flax [jcflax@yahoo.com](mailto:jcflax@yahoo.com)

Would you like 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 homes of various members. For more information please call Jeannette Flax at (609) 653-6177

## STOCKTON'S CHILDREN'S THEATER Vicki Biron [vickibiron@comcast.net](mailto:vickibiron@comcast.net)

I need volunteer ushers for the Bay Atlantic Symphony Education Concert at Stockton on Tuesday, May 8th, at 10:30 AM. If you'd like to volunteer, please arrive by 9:45 AM. It takes place in the main theater and you can park in lot 6. Anjanette at Stockton will email a parking pass to you several days before the show as you will need it to park.

If you'd like to volunteer, please email me at [vickibiron@comcast.net](mailto:vickibiron@comcast.net) or text me at 609-703-3788.

If you have already volunteered, thank you.



## Ready Set Read Mary Brodsky [mabrodsky27@gmail.com](mailto:mabrodsky27@gmail.com)

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the program this year. Even though we got off to a slow start, the program was a rousing success. We filled all the classrooms with volunteer readers and the children had a wonderful experience as well as book to call their own.

## Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine [breidensti@aol.com](mailto:breidensti@aol.com)

On **April 11**, Shelley Cohen will focus our attention on The History of Love by Nicole Krauss. In this novel, Nicole Krauss has created "some of the Most memorable and moving characters in recent fiction." Claire Moyer will be hostess. New people always welcome!

## Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett [geoca41@gmail.com](mailto:geoca41@gmail.com)

The Travel Group will meet on **March 28** (Wednesday) at 7pm at the Linwood Library. Ann Andrew, who gave us the program on Ankor Wat will present BORNEO. This is what Ann says about her presentation:

Come discover Borneo, home of the oldest rainforest in the world. Located in the South China Sea, Borneo houses the most amazing flora and fauna outside of Africa. Carnivorous plants, orangutans, proboscis monkeys, and pink river dolphins are a few of the sights easily seen on day trips. Stay in 5-star hotels, local headhunter longhouses, or in tree houses high above the forest floor with the silver langur monkeys. Whether you are looking for gorgeous white sandy beaches, rugged hiking, or authentic culture, Borneo has it all!

## STAR

Carolyn Bassett [geoca41@gmail.com](mailto:geoca41@gmail.com)

The next STAR meeting is **Monday, March 26**. The topic is MARCH FOR OUR LIVES. Several of the STAR members are going on the March to advocate in favor of removing automatic weapons from the marketplace and having more regulations in place for buying guns. They will be talking about their experience, and we hope that some of the students who participated will also share their experiences.

The meeting is at Mainland Professional Park, Allied Health Office, 1759 Zion Rd, Northfield. (the corner of Rt 9 and Zion Rd) 6:30 snacks and socializing, 7pm program.

## Public Policy Within Our Branch is Dead

### *Let's Put Life Into Public Policy at the Local Level*

By: Michelle J. Douglass, Esq.

The Atlantic County branch of New Jersey AAUW is a group of talented and intelligent women who have historically gathered for social, educational and scholarship fund raising. It has not and does not engage in the making of public policy. The Public Policy section of the Forum is laudable for its regurgitation of National public policy issues and for the selection of current events analysis as it impacts women issues. Yet, this seems a superficial task each month when writing about "public policy" for Forum.

I suggest a change.

Simply restating the issues of concern to women without any real input by our local branch members does nothing to further the interests of women at a local level. Additionally, I propose that our group speak out about policies important to women and girls to leading members of our community and State. Without our voices, without our input, how will invaluable legislation at the local and State level ever be influenced by us?

Our ideas, thoughts, concerns can be channeled into effective public policy action plans. Public Policy necessarily involves work that should connect and rally advocates at the local, state, national, and even global levels to advance our positions to empower women and girls. With the member-endorsed Public Policy Priorities as our guide, we, at the branch level could, indeed, should embark on lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women.

I propose that we, as a branch, move in the direction of permitting our members to organize an effective public policy committee that seeks the input from our members and from leaders in the community to identify problems and matters of concern with the aim of formulating and implementing policies pertaining to the advancement of women. The Atlantic County Branch of the AAUW could, through its Public Policy Committee, lead lobbying and grassroots efforts to truly advance women.

May I hear from you? [mjd@myrightslawyers.com](mailto:mjd@myrightslawyers.com)



## Book Group Meeting



Hostess, Ginny  
Dominic with  
Peggy Creegan



Diana Intenzo, Presenter



Mary Lou Breidenstine, Susan Wolfe, Valerie Koob, and Terry Daily



Back left circular to back right Audrey Moloney, Ann-Maria Guevara, Diana Intenzo, Audrey Owen, Shelley Cohen, Gail Vreeland, Mary-Lou Breidenstine, Susan Wolfe, Valarie Koob.



# Woman of Distinction



Meghan Wren and Linda Harmon



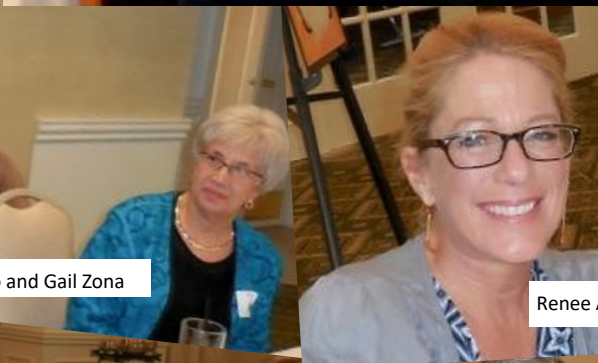
Meghan Wren and Maureen Kern



Meghan Wren and Jeff Van Drew



Helen Riso and Gail Zona



Renee Astin and Lynn Caterson



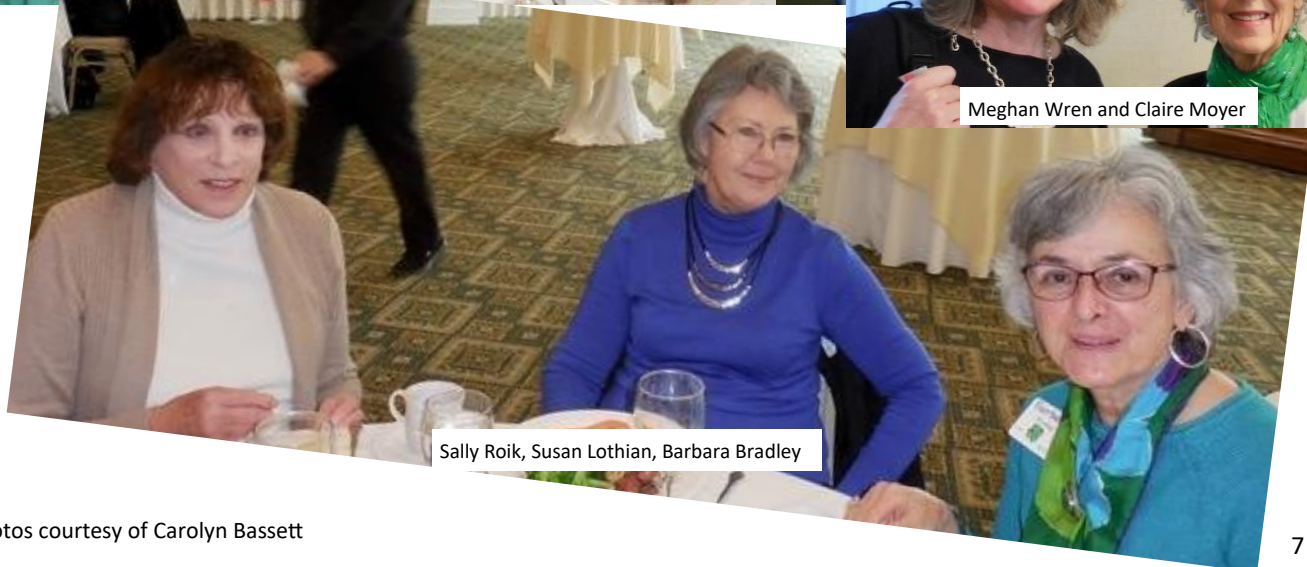
Cathy Shippen and Pat Camey



Claudine Keenan, Jackie Shelly, Gail Davis



Meghan Wren and Claire Moyer



Sally Roik, Susan Lothian, Barbara Bradley

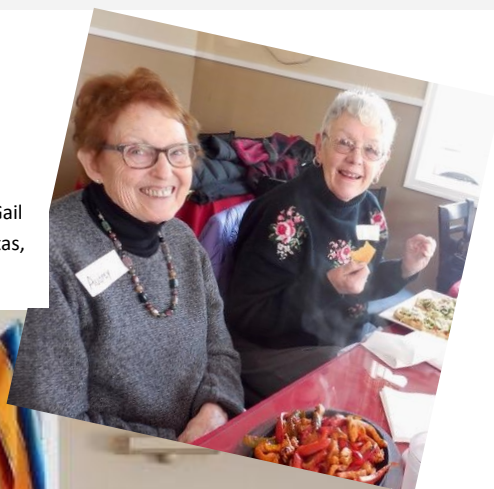


## Ethnic Lunch Group



Gretchen  
Braunwarth  
with her dish

Audrey Moloney and Gail  
Davis with chicken fajitas,  
and corn tortillas



Diana Intenzo, Claire Moyer, Barbara Wolnerman, Gretchen Braunwarth, Pedro,  
Gail Davis, MaryLou Breidenstine, Ann-Maria Guevara, Audrey Moloney.

Photos courtesy of Carolyn Bassett



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <i>Book Group</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>Branch Meeting Forsythe Center</i>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	May 1 <i>Board Meeting 5:30pm Shore Diner</i>	May 2 ...			

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.