

THE FORUM



ATLANTIC COUNTY BRANCH NOVEMBER 2019 VOL. 119 NO.3

Serving Women For Over One Hundred Years

President's Message: Arlene Groch aggroch@mac.com

Dear members and friends,

Reflections on our first fall events are cause for celebration, but they also raise concerns for me.

We continue to enjoy the addition of new members. Please note the list in the Membership Chair's report, and try your best to get acquainted so they feel welcome. Our membership now stands at 140, and phone calls are being made to those who did not send in their dues. So far we have learned of health issues for some and not feeling included by another. Of course, many of us are now mourning the loss of our long time and much loved oldest member Helen Riso. We will remember her with love, laughter and a deep sense of loss.

Attendance at the September dinner was on a par with our past, 63 members participated. A few left before or during program. Was that because it was getting dark? Did they have a late date? Or did they dislike one or more of the candidate(s)? While the Board has discussed the fact that some of us were uncomfortable with the "tone" of the discussion, Board members agreed that we are not responsible for unanticipated rude behavior by a candidate(s) or members of the larger public who attended in numbers far in excess of our anticipation. The Atlantic City Press sent a reporter and photographer, thanks to Shelly Cohen's endeavors, and the Sentinal covered it as well. All told, we have received very positive public recognition in both papers, AND we provided a public service by letting people get a look at the candidates running for County Executive, a very important position. **So let's all be sure to vote on Nov. 5th.** No matter what, it was a pleasure working with and thanks to Jesse Connor and Rosanne Goldberg, of the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization many of us respect and support.

Attendance was down to 30 for the October branch event. Why? But we did welcome two more new members, Panelists Mary Maudsley and Arlene González. They, along with Jenine Brown, our Public Policy Chairperson, provided pertinent, up to date information and stimulated an active, involved audience discussion. That was our goal. They covered many issues of concern to today's women, including the fight for gender pay equity in the U.S. Supreme Court, the leadership role New Jersey takes on pay equity, where employees can now get paid Family Leave for up to 12 weeks and other important benefits, the continued battle to preserve Roe v. Wade against state laws [not NJ] that drastically limit women's ability to obtain a safe abortion, and the dismal statistics on maternal and child health in Atlantic County, and much more.

This mid-week evening event was a free, dessert-only affair to keep member costs low. Many thanks to Linda Karp who organized the social hour during which the discussions continued, and to Kris Baker,

Rosalind Nance and Jeanette Flax, who baked delicious desserts for all to enjoy and to Theresa Salgado, who brought the necessary paper products and helped set up the desserts.. A special thanks goes to Beth Israel Congregation and new member Susan Sokalsky, their Administrator, who allowed us to meet in their beautiful chapel, free of charge.

Linda Karp, Aida Cohen and Teresa Salgado have also generously volunteered to organize the food for our **December 7th Holiday Pot Luck Dinner Party at the Northfield Library**, and thanks to Aubrey Heirs for letting us share this lovely library without charge. *Please contact Linda at lindakarp@gmail.com to RSVP and to let her know what delicious "covered dish" or dessert you will bring.* It can be cooked by you or by ShopRite, the Bake Works, Sam's, etc. Watch the Forum for more details about this fun party.

Our Board and Program Committee have managed to keep down the cost of all of our meetings so far. September's full course dinner was a modest \$35.00 a plate, and the October and December events will be of minimal or no cost to members. The November 16th Luncheon and Fundraiser will cost \$45, and we hope you will participate generously in bidding for the baskets, handbags, jewelry and many other items being gathered by Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff, Carol Zerbe and their hard working Finance Committee members. We only hold two fundraisers each year; without your support for them we won't be able to provide needed scholarships, run Tech programs and operate our Branch. You'll see a line in the form for you to donate if you can't make the event.

Your evaluations and suggestions will be discussed at our October 30th planning meeting. Therefore, I ask you to please respond to each of these questions and email your comments to Diane Koob at dwkoob@gmail.com. We will share them with the Board and Program Committee as we plan future Branch meetings.

1. I did/did not attend the September dinner event because
2. I did/did not attend the October meeting because
3. I plan to attend future events if
4. I am active in these listed interest groups
5. I'd love to have a meeting that would
6. I do/don't like having Branch meetings without meals because
7. Additional comments about the September and October events are encouraged.

Many thanks in advance for your important input,
All my best, Arlene Groch. President, AC-AAUW Branch

PS Please be sure to bring books to sell or share at the November 16th Fundraiser.

Program: Lissette Goodwin, Reservations lisagoodwin999@gmail.com

For everyone coming to the November Luncheon at The Carriage House, your payment is due prior to November 2nd as the complete headcount is requested by the venue on that date. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions, please email me.

If you are unable to attend, please submit your check to AWCO with the reservation form. Thank you.

Fundraiser: Carol Zerbe & Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff. Flyer on next page.



AWCO & AAUW

Invite you to our

Fall Festival

***Luncheon & Scholarship
Fundraiser***

November 16th

Social Hour at Noon, luncheon at 1pm

Cost: \$45

Carriage House

25 Pitney Road, Galloway

***TO REGISTER: complete and mail to Lisa Goodwin,
814 Ohio Ave., Absecon, NJ 08201 by November. 2nd***

1. *Lunch choice: Penne Pasta Primavera _____ Salmon _____
or Grilled Chicken Chardonnay _____*
2. *Include your check for \$45 payable to AWCO*
3. *Please seat me with _____*
4. *I can't attend, but I support our Scholarship program.
Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of \$ _____*

Treasurer Bev Schechtman bevschech@hotmail.com

Fifty-six dollars of your dues are tax deductible as a charitable contribution to AAUW. You can find this information on the National website. Scroll down to Member Tools. Enter and scroll down to Member Services Database. Enter the database. At the top left side you will see MY Profile/My Membership Card. Your information and amount of tax deductible dues are listed there.

Boscov's Fundraiser Gail Zona gzona1@comcast.net

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day this year was a successful event for our branch. The total realized was **\$270.00**. These funds will support our STEM programs for young women in our area. Thank you to all who help make these events become a reality for our future leaders.

Membership Lynne Walters rrwalters321@hotmail.com

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

Judith Slotoroff

149 S. Mannheim Ave., Egg Harbor City, 08215.
609-965-1231 Carmakitty@verizon.net

Mary Maudsley

2 Catalina Drive, Linwood, 08221
347-564-4018 maudsley@aol.com

Rosalind Norrell-Nance

101 Cherry Drive, Egg Harbor Township, 08234.
609-677-1340 liznn@comcast.net

Marian Talese

70 Walnut Rd., Ocean City, NJ 08226
609-399-3239 mtalese0226@verizon.net

Arleen C. González

2 Chelsea Court, Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-385-8396 arleen.gonzález@stockton.edu

STEM Gail Davis ghath@comcast.net

Our dates are set for the 6th Tech Trek camp. Please mark your calendars for July 26 to August 1. AND please volunteer to interview students who have been nominated and applied (I will serve as Atlantic County Chair) AND/or volunteer as a day counselor or Dorm Mom at camp. I promise it is rewarding and fun!!! FYI all branch presidents have received a 'letter of intent' from Karen Brown, NJ state president to sign if they want students from their county, area to be included in possibly attending Tech Trek. Responsibilities for each branch include: having a tech trek coordinator and interviewers, some type of fund raising event for Tech Trek, and supplying some personnel for camp(day counselors, Dorm Moms, packing backpacks, etc.

Dates for Tween Tech and Teen Tech have yet to be established but are expected to be early January and May. We have an ongoing need for \$\$\$\$\$ for camp. Please contact me if you wish to volunteer or donate. Gail Davis- STEM chair for Atlantic County. 609-513-6281.

Public Policy Jenine Brown jb1nj@aol.com

When exploring recent public policy, it became very interesting to learn how the lives of women and their families can be improved or changed with a stroke of the pen!

In January 2019 New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy enacted legislation which requires employers to offer 1 hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked. Effective in June the law gives 1.2 million workers access to paid sick leave. This makes New Jersey similar to Washington, DC and ten other states. paid sick leave is beneficial to the economy.

INTEREST GROUPS

Conversational Spanish Jeannette Flax jcflax@yahoo.com

Our enthusiastic group of Spanish learners continues to gather on Monday afternoons from 4:15 to 6:00 at the Otto Bruyns Library, 241 Mill Road, Northfield. Please note that the library will be closed on November 11. If you would like to join us, please call me at (609)653-6177.

Ethnic Lunch Group Ann Maria Guevara amguevara@comcast.net **Gretchen Braunwarth** gretchenb66@gmail.com

December Potluck!

Our December get-together will be a POTLUCK.

Please bring your favorite ethnic dish to share with the group.
We'll meet at NOON on DEC.13 at Gretchen's home: 36 Caledonia Drive, Seaville
Please RSVP to amguevara@comcast.net no later than Wednesday, Dec. 11.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

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

Stockton Children's Theater starts up again in November. If you'd like to usher for one or more shows please email me or text me @609-703-3788. Shows start at 10:30 am, ushers need to be there by 9:45 am. I will remind you a few days before and parking passes will be emailed to you.

The dates are:

The True Story of Pocahontas: Friday, November 1, 2019 at 10:30am in the PAC

The Nutcracker: Friday, December 13, 2019 at 10:30am in the PAC

The Franklin Institute Life in Space: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 10:30am in the PAC

The Bay Atlantic Symphony Education: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 10:30am in the PAC

Everyone who ushers seems to enjoy it and many do more than one show. Why not give it a try!

Book Group Mary Lou Breidenstine breidensti@aol.co

The book group will meet on Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00 pm at the Linwood Library. Terri Dailey will lead the discussion of "Where the Crawdads Sing." The author, Delia Owens, will speak at the Ocean City Music Pier on Saturday, November 9 at 2:00 pm. We will plan our agenda for the coming year at the October 30 meeting. This is your opportunity to make recommendations. New members are always welcomed.

Travel Group Carolyn Bassett geoca41@gmail.com

The Travel Group on **AUSTRALIA** was cancelled due to weather. It will take place at the Northfield Library at 7 pm on November 20. Connie and Don Smedley are still the presenters, sharing pictures and experiences of their trip there. The program after that will be on **JAPAN** presented by Bonnie Warwick (who took the later date to accommodate Connie and Don) . It will be January 15, also at 7pm at the Northfield Library.

Let Carolyn know if you plan to come to the program on Australia.

For A More Equal Society Carolyn Bassett

Our new study/discussion group will meet for the second time on November 20 at the Linwood Library at 1pm. At our first meeting we discussed how male privilege was so pervasive in the past that men often weren't aware of how much they gained from it. Next time we will move on to examining how much we have unknowingly profited from being white. We are using the article "Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." If you don't have a copy yet, let me know and I will send you a pdf.

Let Carolyn know if you can come.

Film Group Terry Dailey johnd4photo@aol.com

Our first viewing at the Northfield Library went beautifully. Aubrey and the library staff could not have been more helpful and welcoming. The film, *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am* received all thumbs up. We especially loved the director's choice of art used in it.

There is a change in the next film scheduled. I purchased *Maiden* and it will be the film on November 14 at 10am at the Tilton. It is a four star documentary about the 1989 Whitbread Round the World (sailing) race. A 26 year old woman wanted to participate and no team would take her so she formed an all-female crew. They battled sexism from the other competitors as well as the press in addition to the severe challenges from the ocean. It was in theaters this summer although it never made it down here. Once again, the price will be \$8 and we will have the use of the party room afterwards for discussion and to eat our lunch. As usual, friends and family are welcome to join us.

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS MONTH:

10/30. Book Club 11/1 Children's Theater 11/13 Ethnic Lunch 11/14. Film Group

11/16 Fundraiser Luncheon 11/20 Travel Group & For a More Equal Society

Spanish Group Mondays except 11/11. NOV 5TH. VOTE

Photo Album

September Branch Meeting



Arlene and Candidates



Jesse Connor LWV



Ro Goldberg LWV, Arlene

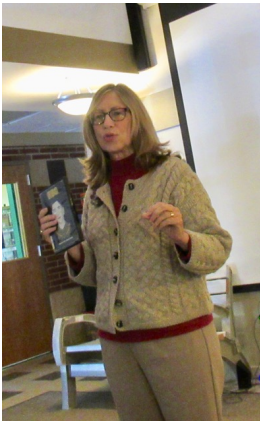


Lisa Goodwin, Kris Baker



Sharone Jackson-Brown, Ronda Brown

Movie Group



Terry Dailey



Brookdale College e-members
Carolyn Bassett



Gail Davis, Nina DelCollo (Trek interviewer)
Kori Greenberg and mom Jamie Ennis

Branch Meeting October



Mary Maudsley, Arleen González, Jenine Brown



Marcia Chotiner, Linda Karp, Joan Leavy,
Freda Strickler, Arleen González



Lynne Walters, bev Schechtman, Gail Davis



Panel with Arlene



Ethnic Lunch Group



Ann-Maria Guevara, Arlene Groch, Bonnie Warwick, Gail Davis, Joan Vicari, Linda Karp, Jill Slotoroff, Marge Coach. Beverly Schechtman