

# THE FORUM



## ATLANTIC COUNTY BRANCH DECEMBER 2019 VOL. 119 NO.4

*Serving Women For Over One Hundred Years*

### **President's Message** Arlene Groch [aggroch@mac.com](mailto:aggroch@mac.com)

As I searched for ways to convey to you how incredibly grateful I am for the blessings of living my life in this moment, in this place, and among the family and friends around me, the list of what I am grateful for was endless. I needed help. Thanks to the wonders of the internet and Pinterest, I found another's far more succinct answer:

"Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace and gratitude."  
Denis Waitley

Our December Branch Event will be a Potluck Holiday Party at NOON on December 7th at the Northfield Library.

Please bring a main dish or salad to share with the group. (We already have enough desserts.) If you wish, please also bring a gift card for the Atlantic County Women's Center, AVANZAR. Finally, if you haven't already done so, please email Linda Karp by December 4th and let her know what you will bring. [Lindakarp@gmail.com](mailto:Lindakarp@gmail.com)

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

Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff [jacalyn\\_shelley2003@yahoo.com](mailto:jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com)

A big thank you to everyone who worked on the event or contributed to make it special. Baskets & gift cards and silent auction items were greatly appreciated, the lunch provided in our new venue was quite good and the speakers were excellent. Shortly the committee will learn of the total profit that was realized and it will be part of either our scholarship program or our Tech Trek camp in July. Thanks to all & of course, the attendees! Your Co-Chairs Jackie and Carol

### **Facebook Administrator** Karen Poorman [karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com](mailto:karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com)

There are two Facebook sources. You can "like" the public Atlantic County AAUW Branch page, which contains general information for the public. Additionally, If you have not joined the closed Facebook group, type "AAUW Atlantic Members" in the Facebook search bar, fill out the short form and request to join the group. The closed group is for members only and has pictures and member information. Any AAUW Atlantic member who is on Facebook should be in the group.

## **Membership Lynne Walters** rrwalters321@hotmail.com

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

Nadine M. Flynn 7 Gallant Fox Lane EHT 08234. 703-624-1884 nmvflynn@gmail.com

## **STEM Gail Davis** ghdath@comcast.net

Soon notices will go out to all schools having a 7th grade in NJ asking for one female student to be nominated for Tech Trek ( July 26-Aug.1). Students who are nominated must complete an application and essay.

That's where YOU can come in.

1. MEMBERS can then volunteer to interview

2. MEMBERS can make a donation( we only receive \$50.00 per camper and must raise about \$160,000 to run the weeklong camp.)

3. MEMBERS can volunteer at camp as a Dorm Mom, day counselor, or stuffing backpacks on July 25 at Stockton.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU CAN DO ANY IF THE ABOVE.( info below)

ADDITIONALLY - I am keeping a list of volunteer escorts for our one day TWEEN TECH at Stockton (Jan. 3 with snow date of Jan. 6 from 8:15-2:30, lunch provided). It's easy, fun and interesting. I hope to hear from many of you. Gail Davis 609-513-6281.

## **Public Policy Jenine Brown** jb1nj@aol.com

The following is excerpted from a statement released on September 10, 2019 by AAUW.

"Pay equity has dominated headlines this year, but change has yet to reach our pocketbooks and bank accounts. Today's news is that women still make 82 cents on the dollar compared to men. And the numbers are dramatically worse for Black women (62 cents) and Latinas (54 cents) compared to white men. These statistics have been stuck around the same levels for almost two decades. Based on historic rates, the gap won't close for 75 years – until 2093.

2019 was a monumental year for pay equity laws with a record 11 states laws from across the political spectrum – enacting new legislation. On a federal level, the Paycheck Fairness Act passed in the U.S. House of Representatives and remains under consideration in the U.S. Senate.

Employers around the country are changing policies some of which are aimed at stopping practices that perpetuate the pay gap.

Individuals can take action – by learning to advocate for their financial futures through AAUW's Work Smart salary negotiation tool.

# INTEREST GROUPS

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

If you would like to improve your Spanish conversation skills, please join our friendly group on Monday afternoons from 4:15 to 6:00 at the Otto Bruyns Library, 241 Mill Road, Northfield. The library will be open **every** Monday in December. Everyone is welcome!

## **Ethnic Lunch Group** Ann Maria Guevara [amguevara@comcast.net](mailto:amguevara@comcast.net) Gretchen Braunwarth [gretchenb66@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:amguevara@comcast.net) no later than Wednesday, Dec. 11.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

## **Stockton Children's Theater** Vicki Biron [vickibiron@comcast.net](mailto:vickibiron@comcast.net)

Stockton's Children's Theater Ushers - 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 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](mailto:breidensti@aol.co)

The book club will meet on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 at the Linwood Library. Karen Cifrese will lead the discussion of "The Secrets We Kept" by Lara Prescott. This gripping novel is set during the cold war and takes us from the cherry blossoms of Washington to the Gulag of the USSR as a group of young American spies attempt to use the masterpiece of Pasternak, "Dr. Zhivago" as a weapon against Soviet oppression.

The Saturday, January 4 meeting will be held at the home of Shelley Cohen, 72 Burnside Dr. EHT. Ann-Marie Guevara will engage us in a conversation about "The Gifted School" by Bruce Holsinger. Should be lots to talk about.  
New people are always welcome.

## **Travel Group Carolyn Bassett geoca41@gmail.com**

The travel group will not meet in December. Connie and Don Smedley presented their trip to Australia that had been postponed from October and it was well- received. The next travel group will be **January 15 at 7 pm at the Northfield Library**. Bonnie Warwick will present her trip to **Japan**.

## **For a More Equal Society Carolyn Bassett**

The next meeting will be on **December 18 at 1pm at the Board Room of the Linwood Library at 1pm**. For this meeting please pick out two or three of the issues that Peggy McIntosh lists as being daily effects of white privilege that you would like to delve into more deeply. The text is "Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" by Peggy McIntosh. I can forward you a pdf, or you can access it yourself over the internet. Let Carolyn know if you will be coming.

## **Film Group Terry Dailey johnd4photo@aol.com**

The film group had an active month. Along with the scheduled documentary, *Maiden*, over two dozen of us as well as friends from STAR went to see *Harriet*. And 3 went to see *Jo Jo Rabbit*. All were excellent, in this reviewer's non-professional opinion!, and showed the bravery of ordinary women.

The December scheduled film will be *The Girls in the Band* which is a documentary about female jazz and Big Band instrumentalists and their groundbreaking journeys from the 1930s to the present. It will be shown at the Otto Bruyns Library in Northfield at 10 AM on Thursday, December 12. There is no cost and once again you are welcome to bring a lunch and stay to discuss the film after it concludes. And, as usual, friends, family and the public are welcome.

There is an upcoming movie that should be of interest. A new version of *Little Women* will be opening on Christmas Day. I'll advise those on the email list of specific times and locations.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER THIS MONTH:**

**12/4 Board of Directors mtg 4:30**

**12/4 Book Club**

**12/7 Holiday Lunch**

**12/12 Film Group**

**12/13 Ethnic Lunch**

**12/13 Children's Theater**

**12/18 Equal Society Group**

**All 5 Mondays Conversational Spanish Group**



# Photo Album

## Book Club



Cifrese, Dailey, presenter



Weis, Smith, Ecker

## New Member Orientation



New Member in middle: Jill Slotoroff



Davis, Christine Ruth. Flax. Walters

## Film group at dinner



Bassett, Family



Zona, guest Pat Bright, Intenzo



Juanita Habron. Davis

## Fundraiser



Speakers Tamar LaSure-Owens,  
Nadine Flynn, Eva Smith



Rydzewski, Scheetz



Family, Weis

## Fundraiser cont.



**Shippen, Ingram**



**Shelley, Harmon**



**Davis, Groch**



**Marchesani, Golden**



**Goodwin**



**DeOrio, Cohen, Sharp**

## Travel Group



**Don and Connie Smedley**