

# THE FORUM



**ATLANTIC COUNTY BRANCH MARCH 2020** VOL. 119 NO. 7

*Serving Women For Over One Hundred Years*

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

Dear AC-AAUW Members,

Several very important votes were taken and unanimously approved at our January 29th Board Meeting.

First, Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff became our Vice President and Program Chairperson. Welcome Jacalyn and thank you for filling the vacancy in this critically important Board Position.

Second, Board Secretary Carolyn Bassett generously agreed to once again serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee, and Carol Zerbe and Shelly Cohen joined her as committee members.

Third, the Board next considered my proposal for a new Branch Community Service Project.

One of my goals since becoming President of our Branch has been to increase our service to women and girls in our Atlantic County community. I therefore invited AC-AAUW member Christine Ruth to explain our proposal to enter into partnership with ACCEE, the Atlantic County Collaborative for Educational Equity, a 501c3 organization which Christine created and leads.

Christine explained that one of the systemic challenges confronting education equity for non-white students is the low percentage of non-white teachers in public schools. The percentages of white teachers are: in the US 80%, 85% in NJ, and 95% in Atlantic County. What are the barriers? One is that only 2% to 5% of graduates with teaching degrees from NJ universities are teachers of color. Another barrier is the NJ requirement that all teachers must pass the PRAXIS Tests before they can teach in NJ public schools.

As Christine further explained, there are teacher assistants of color throughout the Atlantic County system who have completed college with teaching degrees, but who have not passed the required PRAXIS tests. To help them do so, ACCEE volunteers have been tutoring some such aspiring teachers, half of whom are not native English speakers. Our proposal, which the Board unanimously approved, was that Branch members work with ACCEE to become Praxis test tutors in reading, writing, and math so that together we can help more people of color, most of whom are women, to become Certified NJ teachers.

I explained that when I learned about this barrier to increasing the number of certified NJ teachers, particularly teachers of color, I took the Practice reading and writing tests and have started tutoring my first student. It is interesting, important and enjoyable work, and I heartily encourage all AAUW members to take the Praxis tests, recognize your own competency to help others and to become AAUW tutors.

I am delighted that the Board approved this "Tutors for Educational Equity" Project. This community service program will be a Board position, similar to that of our STEM program. A chairperson will be announced shortly. In the meantime, please contact Christine at [christine@acedequity.org](mailto:christine@acedequity.org) or me to learn more and join us.

## **State Board News Linda Harmon**

### **AAUW New Jersey state board is in need of volunteers to fill any of the following board positions for 2020 - 2021:**

President

Executive VP

Communications VP

Equity Program VP

Central District Coordinator

Southern District Coordinator. I have had 2 terms a Southern District Coordinator and that is all that is allowed under the bylaws.

Please let me know if you are interested in any of these positions: contact me at [linda.harmon@gmail.com](mailto:linda.harmon@gmail.com) 609-204-8596

## **STEM Gail Davis [ghdath@comcast.net](mailto:ghdath@comcast.net)**

**TeenTech 2020** – will be held **Wednesday June 3, 2020 at Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC) Mays Landing Campus**. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, bus greeters, workshop monitors, and public relations. A volunteer walk thru to become familiar with the duties of the day and the campus will be held on Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. You do not have to attend the June 2<sup>nd</sup> training in order to volunteer. If you are able to **volunteer on June 3rd**, please **call or email Linda Harmon 609-204-8596 [linda.harmon@gmail.com](mailto:linda.harmon@gmail.com)**

## **Tech Trek Camp**

Your help and support is needed. In order to assure a successful camp experience for our girls across the state at Tech Trek Camp this summer, volunteers are needed.

### **Tech Trek will be held at Stockton University July 26 – August 1, 2020.**

Volunteers are needed as dorm mom's, day counselors ( walking the girls to the workshops) , student selection interviewers, snack donor/collectors, Professional Women's Night moderators, and fundraising and grant writers. Please ask your members to consider this wonderful volunteer opportunity.

**Please complete the form if you are available to volunteer for camp this summer, even for a day:** <https://techtrek-nj.aauw.net/volunteer/>

Thank you! Tech Trek Leadership Team (Claudine Keenan, Ann Marchesani, Linda Harmon Gail Davis)

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

Please send any pictures from branch or interest group meetings to [Karenpoormansjawe.com](http://Karenpoormansjawe.com) for the Facebook page or group. The page is open to all and will not be labeled with names unless the member labels the picture The group is private to members.

**Scholarship Karen Poorman Karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com**

Scholarships are being awarded to two Atlantic Cape Community College women who are majoring in STEM areas and two Stockton students who are pursuing a minor in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies. There are two scholarships granted for attendance at the National Conference for College Women Student Leadership Program, to two high school girls to attend the Rowan summer band camp, and \$2,000.00 for the Tech Trek summer camp at Stockton.

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

If you would like to usher for Bay Atlantic Symphony children's show at Stockton on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, please email me at vickibiron@comcast.net or text me at 609-703-3788. You need to be at the theater by 9:45 am. I email you a reminder a few days before and have a parking pass emailed to you. *Everyone who ushers enjoys it. Why not give it a try?*

## INTEREST GROUPS

**Conversational Spanish Jeannette Flax jcflax@yahoo.com**

Would you like to practice speaking Spanish? Join our conversation group, which meets every Monday that the library is open from 4:15 to 6:00 at the Otto Bruyns Public Library, 241 W. Mill Road, Northfield. For more information, please call Jeannette Flax (609) 653-6177.

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

**Our next ETHNIC LUNCH of the year will be held on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 at 12 noon**

**at NIZAM'S 6725 US 40, EHT Indian & Mediterranean menu**

**RSVP:** Ann-Maria at amguevara@comcast.net or gretchenb66@gmail.com by Sunday April 12.

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

The next book club meeting is Friday, March 6, at the home of Virginia Dominic, 514 Salem Way, Galloway. Virginia will lead the discussion of "The Last September" by Elizabeth Bowen. We will begin promptly at 10:30. Get ready for the April 1 meeting. That selection is "You think it, I'll say it" by Curtis Sittenfeld. New people are always welcome.

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

Travel Group will not meet in March (We are traveling!) The next meeting will be Japan presented at long last by Bonnie Warwick. That will be April 29 at the Linwood Library, but I will remind you again.

**For A More Equal Society Carolyn Bassett**

For a More Just Society will meet Wednesday, March 25, at 1 pm at the Linwood Library. We will read the preface and chapter one of "**How to be an AntiRacist**" by **Ibram Kendi**, to discuss.

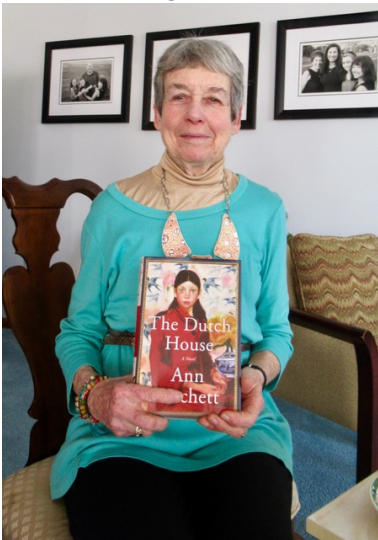
## Film Group Terry Dailey johnd4photo@aol.com

We had a small group at the Northfield Library for our screening of *He Named Me Malala*. Our consensus word was inspirational for the courage showed by Malala and her father. We also liked the artistic animations done when film was not available for times before Malala was famous.

Our March 12 scheduled film will be *The Guardians*. It is a 2017 French film about farm women grappling with the workload while the men are off fighting in WWI. Their new independence causes tensions when the men return. This movie will be screened at the Tilton at 10A am The cost is \$8, friends and family are welcome, and please bring a lunch and stay to discuss the film.

## Photo Album

### Book Group



Carolyn Bassett. Presenter

### Stockton's Childrens Theater



Franklin Institute On Living Space

### Ushers



Carolyn Bassett, Kristina Baker, Mary Ingraham



The Audience



## Ethnic Luncheon



**Bonnie Warwick, Connie Smedley, Gretchen Braunwarth  
Linda Harmon**



**Audrey Owen, Ginny Gormley, Gail Vreeland,  
Gail Davis**



**Linda Karp, Nadine Glynn, Valerie Koob**