

THE FORUM



ATLANTIC COUNTY BRANCH APRIL 2020 VOL. 119 NO. 8

Serving Women For Over One Hundred Years

President's Message Arlene Groch aggroch@mac.com

Our New Reality

Every day creates a new normal for each of us. Hopefully, every one of you is staying home to the greatest extent possible and exercising "social distancing" when you must go out. But that does not mean we have to be lonely. We are in the process of setting up Zoom to hold Branch, Special Interest Group and Committee Meetings together via the Internet. And we can use that trusted ancient device, the telephone, for the intimate conversations we never seemed to have time for before Covid-19 turned our world upside down. "So if you have ideas you'd like to share with me, or just need a listening ear, please call me at 609-646-9447. I'll be home, of course, but if the line is busy, please leave a message and I'll call you back."

Look what we have accomplished!

Today I received some good news from National - - - the AAUW Branch Membership Count for Fiscal Year 2020. [Details in link below]. The Report shows our Branch added 21 new members in the past 10.5 months — an achievement second only to Northern Monmouth County's 22 new members! In addition, prior National but not Branch members Jean Griffin and Pamela Tyson also joined our Branch, and therefore were not included, so we actually added 23 new Branch members this year.

I'm absolutely thrilled with our progress. If each of us invites our friends, co-workers and relatives to join us, and we continue to have interesting, challenging programs and special interest gatherings, our Branch will continue to set new growth records.

Nominations and Election

Finally, here is the second posting of the Nominating Slate I emailed to you on March 5th with a request for additional nominations. I received none. If I do not receive any nominations by email on or before 5 pm April 5th, the below Slate will be considered accepted by acclamation. Since we can't hold an in person meeting on April 23rd, this is how we'll have to vote.

Electing Officers:

President

Arlene Groch

Program/Vice President

Jacalyn Shelly-Tasoff

Membership Co-chairs

Linda Karp, Lynne Walters, Diane Koob

Treasurer

Beverly Schechtman

Financial Officer

Lois Fried

Fundraiser Co-chairs

Carol Zerbe, Kathy Ziegenfus

Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Event Coordinator
STEM Coordinator
Tutors for Educational Equity

Elected Leaders:

Digital Forum Editor
Public Information
Public Policy
Scholarships

Carolyn Bassett
Kris Baker
Lisa Goodwin
Gail Davis
Virginia Rettig

Ann Carson
Shelley Cohen
Jenine Brown
Karen Poorman, Lois Fried

Special Interest Group Leaders

Hospitality Co-chairs
Facebook
Roster
Children's Theater
Book Group
Travel Group
Film Group
For a More Just Society
Spanish Group
International Studies
Ethnic Cuisines co-chairs

Linda Karp Aida Colon, Teresa Sartorio
Karen Poorman
Linda Karp
Vicki Biron
MaryLou Breidenstine
Carolyn Bassett
Terry Daily
Carolyn Bassett
Jeannette Flax
Lynne Walters
Ann-Maria Guevara,
Gretchen Braunwrath

The names in green are new nominees. The names in black are running to continue in their currently held positions.

* My sincere thanks to Caroline Bassett, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee and her able assistants, committee members Carol Zerbe and Shelley Cohen

Program Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

On April 23rd at 7 pm, we hope to hold Christine Ruth's program on Leadership: How to Build an Organization using Zoom (an internet application) to live-stream her webinar on either mobile or desktop devices. We'll share more information on how we'll make that happen within a couple of weeks.

Please note: The May 20th Installation Dinner is cancelled. The Committee will meet in April using Zoom to work on another May program event in an effort to keep all AAUW members connected. Look for more information in the May Forum.

My thanks to the Program Committee members for their devotion to researching and coordinating events we hope you'll enjoy and satisfies your desire for life-long learning.

If you get a chance, please thank Carolyn Bassett, Shelley Cohen, Lisa Goodwin, Diane Koob, Linda Karp, Mary Maudsley, Carol Zerbe, Kathy Zeigenfus, and both Aida Colon and Theresa Sartorio, Hospitality Co-Chairs, for their time and efforts on behalf of our Branch.

Treasurer Bev Schechtman bevschech@hotmail.com

The one thing that won't be cancelled are dues. I will be sending out an email in April which will direct you to a website containing a secure link that can be used to renew. If you plan to pay online, please wait for the email and respond to that. Otherwise, I will be happy to accept all checks. Dues remain at \$79.00 payable to AAUW Atlantic County Branch. Mail to me at 100 S. Berkley Sq. Unit 9G, Atlantic City, NJ 0840. They are due by June 30, 2020.

Membership Lynne Walters rrwalters321@hotmail.com

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

Dr. Jean Griffin
1927 Kuehnle Ave., Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-348-6383
Jean1927@comcast.net
BS, ME, EdD Temple University

Pamala Tyson
111 Lakeview Drive E., EHT NJ 08234
609-703-1254
pamtyson@herocampaign.org
BFA Kent State University

Barbara Rosenblatt
7800 Bayshore Drive, Margate, NJ 08402.
609-335-7346
Broosenblatt32@hotmail.com

Claudia Capasso
509 Garfield Ave, Linwood, NJ 08221
609-204-5728
cjcapasso@gmail.com

Rona Zucker Kaplan
617 N. Clermont Ave, Margate, NJ 08402
609-703-6584
rkaplan@cooperlevenson.com

Please change Lynne Walters' phone number to: 609-335-0589.

International Studies Great Decisions Program Lynne Walters

Received a note from the Margate Library about the Great Decisions program. The Margate Library is closed and the program will be delayed until we know when the library will open again. Participants will be notified when we have more information.

STEM Gail Davis ghdath@comcast.net

We conducted virtual interviews of students around the State and we were proceeding with plans for both Meet and Greet and Tech Trek. We completed our interviews of 10 students in Atlantic County and submitted our priority listing. Unfortunately, Stockton announced it is closing for the rest of the semester, so our Meet and Greet is doubtful at best. Camp could be cancelled as we are subject to the American Camping Association and AAUW Guidelines (there are other tech trek camps held in June). There are other possibilities, but I hesitate to speculate on possibilities. Uncharted territories for sure.

Camp if still allowed to be held is July 26-Aug 1 and still needs day counselors and Dorm Moms. Please volunteer at AAUWSTEMCAMP/volunteers. Further notice will be given when known.

Teen Tech on June 3 has been cancelled for this year. Thanks to those who volunteered and I hope you will volunteer again in the future.

Facebook Karen Poorman Karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

Facebook, *AAUW Atlantic members*, is the social connection that can keep us in touch until we can actually touch again. AAUW Atlantic has two Facebook connections: Our Facebook page, is public and anyone can see what is posted. Our private Facebook group cannot be seen by anyone except our members. We can “talk” and communicate with each other quickly and efficiently on the Facebook group. Are any of you old enough to remember party lines on phones? You could pick up the phone and hear people talking without participating, or you could talk. That is Facebook. You can listen, or you can contribute. On the closed group site, we can give each other information ranging from recipes to cultural events to opinions. We can tell each other about the latest book that we read or send a link for a concert or art show. We can share trips ...or ones that we had to cancel. We can send pictures of restaurants that we would like to support when they re-open. We can send pictures of food...or grandchildren (Watch out...I have over 1000 recent ones!). Club chair people, you could send reports and pictures of your meetings (as some already do) and share discussions of your group. While we are in seclusion, you could make suggestions for your groups for films, books, travel shows, etc.

You first must be a Facebook member, as many of you are. You can “like” the page, but you must request to join the group. We will accept AAUW Atlantic members in the group. We have a substantial number of members who are in the group, but we would welcome all AAUW Atlantic members and increased participation.

If you do not know how to join Facebook, email karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com for instruction. Do not fear Facebook. It was invented for the scenario that we are experiencing today. It can unite us when we cannot connect in person.

Scholarship Karen Poorman, Chair

Committee: Stella Hordes, Connie Smedley, Joan Vicari, Rosalind Nance, Lois Fried

The scholarship committee meeting is scheduled for April 16 at 5:30 PM at Karen Poorman’s home. The committee will choose the recipients for the Rowan University Band camp and will meet with the Finance Committee at the same location at 7:00 PM to discuss the future of a trust fund that has funded AAUW scholarships for our branch for decades. Scholarship and Finance committee members will be informed as to the status of the meeting as soon as it is known if there is a need for a change due to the uncertainty of the impact of the virus.

Public Policy Jenine Brown jb1nj@aol.com

With the ongoing health crisis effecting the lives of women and families, NJ Governor Phil Murphy announced Wednesday, March 18, that the number of coronavirus cases surged in New Jersey. There were many new cases, bringing the state total to 742 on March 19th with all schools now closed as well as many businesses, including hair salons, spas, and barbershops. During a joint conference call with the governors of New York and Connecticut, Governor Murphy announced all movie theaters, gyms and casinos in the three states were closed as of 8 p.m. March 16 and remain closed until further notice. Also, bars and restaurants will only serve take-out food for the foreseeable future. “We want everybody home, not out,” Murphy said. For general questions about COVID-

19, members may visit NJ.gov/health or call the NJ COVID-19 & Poison Center Public Hotline at 1-800-962-1253 or 1-800-222-1222. (Sourced from njgov.gov; cbslocal.com)

INTEREST GROUPS

Conversational Spanish Jeannette Flax jcflax@yahoo.com

For the moment the Spanish conversation group is not meeting on Mondays because the Northfield Library is closed. I will send a message to all our current members when we are free to gather again. jcflax@yahoo.com. (609) 653-6177

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

Our ethnic lunches have been postponed indefinitely. We'll be "in touch" as soon as it's safe to do so! Best wishes to all, Ann-Maria & Gretchen

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

Stockton University is closed. The May Children's Theater performance is cancelled.

Book Group Mary Lou Breidenstine breidensti@aol.com

The Book Group meeting for Wednesday, April 8 is cancelled. Not sure when "You Think It, I'll say it" will be rescheduled, if at all. Our next meeting, "Sycamore", is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00. The location is changed to the home of Mary Lou Breidenstine. Christine Masker will lead the discussion. Our final meeting for the season is June 3 at 7:00, also at the home of Mary Lou Breidenstine. Gail Vreeland will review "The Testaments" by Margaret Atwood. Of course, **all meetings are subject to cancellation, pending health concerns**. If you would like to be added to the Book Group email list please let Mary Lou know.

While "sheltering in place" you might want to watch some videos you don't normally have time for. Some recommendations are: The Spy, a true story about Israel's most famous spy starring Sasha Baron Cohen in an unusual role for him; Babylon Berlin, a German drama about the era from 1919 until 1933; and Versailles, a drama about the consolidation of power by Louis XVI. These are available on Netflix. HBO will be running part 2 of "My Brilliant Friend", an excellent portrayal of a book we read a few years ago. Also, HBO will start the series "The Plot Against America", based on the Philip Roth novel.

If you belong to the Margate Library be sure to log-in to their free screening service Kanopy. Many good films and documentaries are available.

Travel Group Carolyn Bassett geoca41@gmail.com

The two Travel Groups scheduled now are for April 29 (Japan) at the Linwood Library and May 27 (Dordogne, France) at Terry Daily's. At this point it seems unlikely that either will take place, but if the situation changes for the better I will alert the people who are on my travel email list by email.

For A More Equal Society Carolyn Bassett

There is a meeting scheduled for March 25 at 1 pm at the Linwood Library. The library is closed. I am trying to figure out how to use Zoom, and if I do I will be back in touch to see if the group wants to continue that way. Meanwhile, I will keep in touch with participants by email.

Film Group Terry Dailey johnd4photo@aol.com

Our intimate group at the Tilton for the screening of *Les Gardiennes* concurred that although it was slow the cinematography was beautiful. And the women truly were the guardians of their farms and their families.

Due to the COVID 19 outbreak and need for social distancing, there will be no films in April or May. I will hold the planned movies for next fall. By then I will know if the Tilton can continue to financially sustain the showings for our small group. In the meantime, I will send emails to those in the group about upcoming films that I think may be of interest On Demand and streaming. The book group has had wonderful suggestions and I will forward those emails so that anyone not in both groups does receive them.

Photo Album

Travel Group



Phil & Mary Ingraham. Carolyn Bassett



Branch Meeting Moms Demand Action



Janet Yunghans, Eva Smith



Karen Fitzpatrick, Freeholder

Terry Daily addressing group



Book Group



Ginny Dominic, Presenter



Terry Daily, Karen Weis, Ginny Dominic