

THE FORUM



ATLANTIC COUNTY BRANCH 2020 Vol. 119 No.10

Serving Women For Over One Hundred Years

President's Message

Arlene Groch

aggroch@mac.com

Wow! Your fantastic Branch leaders have accomplished an amazing amount in the past several weeks, despite the pandemic. But maybe we have accomplished so much because we have been staying home 24/7! Either way, I'm delighted to provide you with this summary of our progress.

- You elected a full slate of smart, talented, dedicated leaders. I am honored to work with such accomplished women and am empowered by them.
- Please read, print and retain the attached Leadership Roster created by Linda Karp, our new Membership Vice President. You'll find it helpful to keep it handy so you can reach any of us for information or to volunteer to work on a committee or join an Interest Group.
- We created two new appointed board voting positions: Financial Officer [Lois Fried, CPA] and Tutors for Educational Equity [Virginia Rettig]
- Created a new Bylaws Review committee, chaired by Jackie Shelley-Tassoff
- Donated \$1,000 to ACCC specifically to help students with difficulties caused by Covid-19.
- Donated \$4,000 for [4] \$1000 scholarships, [2] to ACCC and [2] to Stockton U.
- Donated \$900 to send 3 students to what is now an online Band Camp.
- Voted 13-0 with 2 abstentions to terminate the Bank of America as Trustee and create a new Trust, the American Association of University Women-Atlantic County Branch Trust in the Community Foundation of South Jersey. I am now in the process of finalizing the transfer documents.
- Shelley Cohen finally has access to our website and is updating it. Watch this space for more information
- The very committed Program Committee members, under the excellent leadership of Jackie Shelley-Tassoff, are off and running with a full schedule of interesting and fun Zoom programs which will continue throughout the summer.

All these donations have left our cupboard rather bare, and we probably won't be able to hold our usual November luncheon fund-raiser. Our Fundraising Committee, chaired by Carol Zerbe and Kathy Ziegenfus, is gearing up to create some new ways to raise funds. If you have talents and experience in this area, please contact them.

Now that you know all about what our Branch has been and is doing, please cruise around National AAUW's brand new and much improved web site. Then think about which of your friends and co-workers also care about helping women and girls achieve equity and invite them to join AAUW and our branch. When I've done that, the response I often get has been, "I thought it was a closed group and no one invited me before." You can help dispel that false urban myth and grow our branch.

Program Vice-President

Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff

jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

Save These Dates and Times!

June 17th at 7 pm

July 15th at 7 pm

August 19th at 7 pm

Come join us virtually for a carefree evening every third Wednesday in June, July & August, for our monthly Wine, Women, and Whatever program. The incomparable Lisa Goodwin will be our Master of Ceremonies. A sample of our first event offerings includes: Sip your favorite beverage and listen to "One Man Band," an a capella performance by Karen Poorman; Carol Zerbe will share her "Local Bird Watching Tips." You'll want to see the magnificent photographs of the different species of birds and where you can find them in Southern NJ. There will be a Question & Answer session; Shelley Cohen will read her sometimes lighthearted, always profound "Poetry For Our Times." And, who knows, there might be a surprise fourth act!

Look for your Zoom invitation on June 15th.

Attached at the end of the Forum is a survey looking for future presentations.

Membership

Linda Karp

Lindakarp@gmail.com

Diane Koob

dwkoob@gmail.com

We added over 20 new members this past year! A special "Thanks" to our President, Arlene Groch, for bringing in most of those members! Now it's our turn. If each one of us could bring in just one new member, that would add so much talent to our group. Let's make that our goal this year.

As a reminder: AAUW of Atlantic County welcomes those with an Associate degree, Baccalaureate degree, or higher degree to join over 130 members in the Atlantic County N.J. area. As a member of AAUW, you will have an opportunity to develop friendships and join a support network comprised of dynamic, educated women of diverse ages, occupations, lifestyles and ethnic groups.

Finally, please remember to send in your dues of \$79. This can be done on the National website.

AAUW Dues/Fees Tax Deductibility information from National

The following is tax information to assist you with your personal taxes:

- AAUW National Individual Membership dues are \$59: \$56 is tax deductible, and \$3 is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) (Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote) activities.
- AAUW National Student Affiliate fee is \$18.81: \$16.81 is tax deductible, and \$2 is not tax deductible (because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities).
- AAUW National Life Membership dues (one-time payment) of \$1180 are fully tax deductible.

NOTE: Branch members — Full national dues are to be paid through your branch as usual. Individual members (MALs) — Full dues are payable to AAUW.

*Branch/state membership dues are not tax deductible unless your branch/state is classified under the Section 501(c)(3) entity by the Internal Revenue Service. Consult your branch/state finance officer to verify status.

STEM

Gail Davis

ghdath@comcast.net

By now you are aware that we had to postpone Tech Trek 2020 to 2021. We will run two camps in 2021: one camp July 18-24 for the seven students who did not attend in 2020 and another camp July 25-31 for a new selection of 7th grade girls.

We are in need of \$19,000 for the 2020 camp that has been rescheduled. Any contribution you might be able to afford is great. Please send to AWCO. c/o Dr. Claudine Keenan, Dean of Education, Stockton University, 101 Vera King Farris Drive- Building J. Galloway, NJ 08205. All contributions are tax deductible.

I am delighted to report that my interview team of Kris Baker, Kathy Zeigenfus, Carol Zerbe, Anne Carson, Virginia Rettig, Tula Christopoulos, Carolyn Basset and I have agreed to interview for the 2021 Tech Trek class and I will serve as Atlantic County Chair. If anyone else wishes to volunteer to assist with the interviews, please let me know. It is fun and interesting.

Scholarships

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

The Rowan band camp was canceled and replaced with a virtual offering of private music lessons and music training online. The committee has chosen three high school girls from South Jersey schools to participate in these sessions. In addition, we have offered two scholarships to women attending ACCC majoring in STEM areas, and two to women at Stockton minoring in women's studies. The college women's leadership camp which for we had approved funds was canceled.

Facebook

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com



"AAUW Atlantic Members" is the name of the closed Facebook Group for our branch. Search for it and use the button to join it and contribute news, videos and pictures of your special interest meetings as well as thoughts and events of interest to the branch. The Facebook AAUW Page is open to the public and contains general posts.

INTEREST GROUPS

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com

The Conversational Spanish group continues meeting via Zoom until the Northfield Library opens. Thanks to the technological prowess of our members, we continue to discuss our current lives and world affairs in Spanish, and we also laugh quite a bit. Consider joining us Monday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00. If you need information, please call me (609) 653-6177 or send me an e-mail.

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com

The dates for summer book club have been changed. Perhaps by August we will feel comfortable meeting on my patio. If not, I will attempt a Zoom meeting. The selections remain the same. They are as follows: August 7. "The Doll's House" and "Miss Brill" by Katherine Mansfield; August 14. "The Pursuit of Love" by Nancy Mitford; and August 21 "The Prime of Miss Jean Brody" and "The Abbess of Crewe" by Muriel Spark. All meetings are on Friday mornings at 10:30. At our first meeting in the fall we will discuss "Unsheltered" by Barbara Kingsolver. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

The Travel Group has not been meeting since the stay-at-home order went into effect. We had a program scheduled on Japan to be given by Bonnie Warwick, and one on Dordogne France to be given by Terry Dailey. Usually we don't meet over the summer. However, we are working to present a travel program using ZOOM. We plan to have the presenter use a PowerPoint slide show which she narrates and shares insights she gained during the trip she took. Not everyone shows pictures, though. Sometimes there is a narrative about the trip using souvenirs, maps, and some pictures. Since we aren't going anywhere right now, some virtual travel would be fun. Let me know if you have any ideas. Phone: 609 937-9095

For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

This group was formed to explore ways to recognize and correct the structural inequalities of our society centered around race. After beginning with several meetings on the topic of white privilege, the group is reading "How To Be and Anti-Racist" by Ibram Kendi. We are now meeting about every 2 or 3 weeks on ZOOM. Our next meeting will be on June 3 (Wednesday) at 2pm. If you are interested in participating, let me know and I will add you to the list. The meeting on June 3 will discuss Chapters 6 and 7 of the Kendi book. All of us read the selection and then we discuss it, sometimes with the addition of short podcasts or videos. Phone: 809 927-9095

Film Group

Terry Dailey

johnd4photo@aol.com

The movie group is active via email with suggestions for each other that we can see on TV or streaming. If you are interested in being added to the list, send me an email.

Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

rettigva@yahoo.com

AAUW is working with Christine Ruth of AC Educational Equity to provide tutors for teachers that need support taking and passing the required Praxis exam to teach in New Jersey. Christine started her 501(c)3 last summer as she was finishing up her PhD (!). We have a great opportunity to get in on the ground floor to support her organization which seeks to support all teachers, but focuses on engaging teachers of color and under-served communities because research shows that children learn better when taught by someone in which they better connect. Please contact me if interested or if you'd like more information and we can chat!

Special Voting Update

2020 Primary Election

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Evelynn S. Caterson

Atlantic County Board of

Elections

Attached to this newsletter is an important informative update from Atlantic County Election Officials. You can help educate the community by sharing this information with others to avoid misunderstandings and the spread of misinformation. Voters who receive a Mail-in-Ballot will have to vote by paper provisional ballot if they go to the polls. They will not be allowed to vote in a voting machine. The Atlantic County Clerk says the Mail-in-Ballots will be mailed out June 12th.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 3	2 pm	For A More Equal Society
June 30		AAUW Membership Renewal Deadline
June 17	7 pm	Program Event: Wine, Women, and Whatever
July 15	7 pm	Program Event: Wine, Women, and Whatever
August 19	7 pm	Program Event: Wine, Women, and Whatever
Mondays	4 pm	Conversational Spanish

Photo Album



May 27, 2020 Zoom Meeting

Let's Stay Connected!

Wine, Women and Whatever
Every third Wednesday in June, July & August

Many of you participated in our first ever branch meeting via Zoom recently. We hoped you enjoyed “seeing” and “being” together. In these trying times, we need to think of new ways to foster social contact and creativity. The AAUW Planning Committee thinks that summer branch meetings via Zoom would help us keep in touch. Since we can’t meet up for a happy hour at a restaurant by the sea, let’s bring this spirit to a few summer Zoom branch meetings!

We will “meet” via Zoom and share our special talents with each other. Bring your favorite type of drink. Remember how you loved Show and Tell? Let’s bring it back. We’re looking for any type of 4-5 minute presentation that will bring a smile, perk our interest, and/or teach us a new skill. If you want to volunteer, please email this form back to: cohen2475@gmail.com

Let us know the following:

1. Your name and best contact information
2. What type of presentation you’ll be doing

Remember you have lots of time to prepare for this. Let’s enjoy “being” together

Yours in good health

Shelley Cohen

cohen2475@gmail.com

AAUW Program Planning Committee

AAUW Atlantic County Leadership 2020 – 2021 (June 2020)

Elected Officers (voting positions) 8

Position	Name	Email	Home phone	Cell
President	Arlene Groch	aggroch@mac.com	609-646-9447	(c) 609-335-4100
VP Membership	Linda Karp	Lindakarp@gmail.com	609-927-7997	(c) 609-432-4670
VP Program	Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff	Jacalyn_Shelley2003@yahoo.com		(c) 609-892-6766
Treasurer	Beverly Schechtman	bevschech@hotmail.com	609-345-5650	(c) 267-648-0297
Corresponding Secretary	Kris Baker	kristinabaker2014@gmail.com		(c) 609-602-4467
Fund Raising	Carol Zerbe Kathy Ziegenfus	czpaints@verizon.net kzeigenfus@gmail.com	609-653-0488	(c) 215-917-9335 (c) 609-457-5245
Recording Secretary	Carolyn Bassett	geoca41@gmail.com	609-927-9095	(c) 609-240-9623
STEM	Gail Davis	ghdath@comcast.net		(c) 609-513-6281

AAUW Atlantic County Leadership 2020 – 2021 (June 2020)

Appointed Board Members (voting positions) 7

Position	Name	Email	Home phone	Cell
Digital Forum Editor	Anne Carson	carsonet@gmail.com		(c) 609-412-7236
Event Coordinator	Lisa Goodwin	lisagoodwin999@gmail.com	609-645-9471	
Financial Officer	Lois Fried	loissfried@gmail.com		(c) 609-742-4286
Public Information	Shelley Cohen	cohen2475@gmail.com	609-365-8857	
Public Policy	Jenine Brown	JB1NJ@aol.com	609 - 927-7598	(c) 609 705 4450
Scholarships	Karen Poorman	karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com	609 - 927-9470	(c) 609-335-4335
Tutors for Educational Equity	Virginia Rettig	rettigva@yahoo.com		(c) 609- 408-2065

AAUW Atlantic County Leadership 2020 – 2021 (June 2020)

Interest Group Leaders

Position	Name	Email	Home phone	Cell
Book Club	MaryLou Breidenstine	breidensti@aol.com	609-927-1779	
Children's Theater	Vicki Biron	vickibiron@comcast.net	609-703-3788	
College Connections	Ronda Brown	ni476@aol.com	856 629-6710	
Ethnic Cuisines	Gretchen Braunwrath Ann-Maria Guevara	gretchenb66@gmail.com amguevara@comcast.net	609-478-6189 609-926-6874	(c) 973-715-9860
Film Group	Terry Dailey	johnd4photo@aol.com	609- 625-7995	
For a More Just Society	Carolyn Bassett	geoca41@gmail.com	609-927-9095	(c) 609-240-9423
Hospitality	Aida Colon Theresa Sartorio Linda Karp	aicolon46@comcast.net theresasartorio@comcast.net Lindakarp@gmail.com	609 965-9521 609-927-7997	(c) 609-703-1182 (c) 609 287-0775 (c) 609-432-4670
International Studies	Lynne Walters	rrwalters321@hotmail.com	609 - 343-0131	609-335-0589
Ready, Set, Read	Lynne Walters	rrwalters321@hotmail.com	609 - 343-0131	609-335-0589
Roster	Tula Christopoulos	tegea222@gmail.com	609 - 226-5827	
Spanish group	Jeannette Flax	jcflax@yahoo.com	609- 653-6177	
Travel Group	Carolyn Bassett	geoca41@gmail.com	609-927-9095	(c) 609-240-9423

Atlantic County Election Information for July 7 Primary

Atlantic County Election Officials have released the **following important updates for the 2020 Primary Election** as further detailed in Executive Orders #105 and #144 by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy:

- The new date for the 2020 Primary Election is Tuesday, July 7, 2020
- All active registered Democrats and Republicans will automatically receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot.
- All inactive voters and voters who are NOT affiliated with a political party, will automatically receive an application for a Vote-by-Mail ballot. Unaffiliated voters will need to declare a party on this form in order to receive the appropriate Democrat or Republican ballot in return.
- A reduced number of polling sites will be open on Election Day for those wishing to vote in person by Provisional Ballot and for voters with disabilities who cannot vote a paper ballot. Information on these polling sites will be released in June and voters will be notified by mail of their respective polling site.
- Ballot drop boxes will be placed in at least 5 pre-determined locations in Atlantic County. These locations will be announced once received and placed. Bearer Ballots may also be dropped off to the Board of Elections in the Historic County Courthouse at 5903 Main Street in Mays Landing.
- Sample ballots will not be mailed to voters, but information on how to obtain or view a sample ballot will be published at <https://www.atlantic-county.org/elections/> and www.atlanticcountyclerk.org. Voters can also contact election offices at the numbers contained herein.

Additionally, the following **important deadlines** apply for the July 7 Primary:

- Residents who wish to register to vote must do so by June 16. Registration forms are available through the Atlantic County Superintendent of Elections at 5920 Main Street in Mays Landing or 1333 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City. Registration forms may also be downloaded at www.atlantic-county.org/elections/.
- Applications for a mail-in ballot must be filled out and returned to the County Clerk by June 30 in order to receive your ballot by mail in time for the Primary Election.
- Mail-in ballots sent by USPS must be postmarked **NO LATER THAN JULY 7** and **RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JULY 14** by the Board of Elections in order to be processed.
- Voters using a Drop Box **MUST DEPOSIT BALLOTS NO LATER THAN 8 pm on ELECTION DAY** in order for these ballots to be processed.

Atlantic County's election offices are preparing for the July 7th Primary and working diligently to ensure voters and election workers are best protected against the spreading or contracting of Covid-19.

"During such an unprecedented time, it's important to get the word out and dispel any misinformation or confusion," remarks Superintendent of Elections Maureen Bugdon. "While the method by which you vote may change, please don't let that stop you from voting."

Registering to vote is the first step in the process and for those interested in voting in the July 7th Primary, Bugdon reminds, "You still have time and we urge your participation."

Election officials advise voters to watch for Vote-by-Mail ballots and applications in their mailboxes in the upcoming weeks.

"All materials will feature return postage paid, as well as self-sealing envelopes in light of Covid-19. We want it to be a simple, unintimidating process," says County Clerk Edward McGettigan.

Once voted and either mailed, deposited or delivered, all VBM ballots are then reviewed for counting by the Atlantic County Board of Elections (Chair Lynn Caterson, Secretary John Mooney, Commissioners Mary Jo Coutts and Audrey Miles). The Board advises voters to follow the instructions provided with their ballot, placing their signature where indicated. For those voters with disabilities who cannot vote a paper ballot, each polling site throughout the county will be equipped with an ADA-compliant, accessible voting machine per federal law. Provisional ballots will be available for all other polling site voters.

Atlantic County Election Officials encourage voters to contact the offices shown below with any questions.

Atlantic County Superintendent of Elections at (609) 645-5882

Atlantic County Board of Elections at (609) 645-5867

Atlantic County Clerk at (609) 909-5842

