THE FORUM



ATLANTIC COUNTY BRANCH AUGUST 2020 VOL. 119 NO.12

Serving Women For Over One Hundred Years

President's Message

Arlene Groch

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Dear Members,

This has been a summer of growing public awareness of systemic racism in the police and prison systems as well in housing, health care, education, food insecurity and access to wealth opportunities. Fortunately for our members who try to be life-time-learners, our Branch offers a Fall 2020 calendar full of information and opportunities to learn about these and other important issues. Along the way we may also learn some American history we should have learned in high school or college.

August 19th Before we start our Fall programs, don't miss the last of our three summer **Wine, Women and Whatever** member presentations. They have featured members with talents from poetry writing to wine tasting to bird watching and much more. Don't miss the culmination of our summer culture series.

Kathy Zeigenfuss: To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment, Kathy Zeigenfus will discuss the Suffragist Movement. The experiences of the White Suffragists and the Black Suffragists who fought not only for "the vote," but also against racism. Following the presentation we'll have a fun quiz about women in American History.

Linda Karp: Whether you enjoy an occasional meatless meal or follow a vegetarian diet, ther is something for you in Linda's program. She will share her Garden State recipes for easy vegetarian dinners that are worthy of a dinner party. I can personally attest that these recipees are delicious, as I am fortunate to have been invited to one of her vegetarian dinner parties.

September 16th – Where Do We Go From Here? Caroline Bassett led her study group, For a More Just Society, as we took a deep dive into How to Be an Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi. Now the Study Group has organized a really interesting program for our September Branch Meeting. Four members of the study group will share what they have learned about specific social justice issues:

The Invention of Race - Carolyn Bassett

Redlining and Its Legacy - Nadine Flynn

Mass Incarceration - Ann-Maria Guevara

What You Might not Know About US History - Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

And here is some very helpful "homework" that will help you prepare for the September Program: please watch the one hour long YouTube video Racial Bias in America, How did we Get Here and Why Are We Stuck? Part III, by Jeffrey Robinson. If you stay with him to the end I promise, you will never forget the last five minutes! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n17YkhLWybY

Finally, we are thrilled to announce the return of **STAR (Sisters Together Against Racism)**, an interracial communication and action group. STAR was started by AAUW 24 years ago, but has operated as an independent

entity since then. STAR has been the source of much learning and personal growth for many of us, including the treasure of lifetime friendships nurtured STAR has nurtured.

Branch member Rosalind Norrell-Nance is now leading STAR, and under her wise leadership I know it will enjoy great success. Members of both STAR and AAUW are welcome and encouraged to participate in each other's programs and open meetings.

Jump in, the water is warm and welcoming, and all of our upcoming activities will take place on Zoom!

Program Vice-President

Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff

jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

Wine, Women, Whatever: August 19th at 7 pm via Zoom.

Whether you enjoy an occasional meatless meal or follow a vegetarian diet, Linda Karp will share her Garden State recipes for easy vegetarian dinners that are worthy of a dinner party.

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment, Kathy Zeigenfus will talk about the Suffragist Movement. Not only will the experiences of White Suffragists be discussed, but also the efforts of Black Suffragists who fought not only for "the vote," but also against racism. There will be a fun quiz about women in American History after her presentation.

If you haven't done so already, please take time to watch "The Vote." You can find it "On Demand" at PBS - American Experience. There are two episodes. It is a compelling documentary not to be missed.

September Branch Meeting: September 16th at 7 pm via Zoom

Where Do We Go From Here?

As women dedicated to our own continued education, we understand all of us have read about systemic racism to some degree. Our "For a More Just Society" study group has spent months learning about the pillars of racism. But, where do we go from here? is a question we've heard and a conversation we'd like to start. We will begin with a panel discussion of the following topics that impacts race relations today.

The Invention of Race Carolyn Bassett
Redlining and Its Legacy Nadine Flynn
Mass Incarceration Ann-Maria Guevara
What You Might Not Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

Know About US History

This will be followed by an opportunity for questions about where do we to go from here.

October Branch Meeting: October 18th at 7 pm via Zoom.

Voting Rights and Problems – A Timely Discussion.

Mary Maudsley, JD, MA, an Adjunct Professor at Stockton University will chair a panel discussion that will provide a brief history of voting rights in the US and current issues. Other participants include Claire Abernathy, PhD is an Assistant Professor at Stockton University, specializing in voting rights, and Helen Kiokus, a Lead Organizer of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey.

There will be time for questions at the conclusion of the presentations.

Treasurer Beverly Schechtman bevschech@hotmail.com

Jim Cahill, the Margate Library director, generously donated the \$544 I had collected for the Great Decisions study guides to our treasury. Jim orders the books and films from the Foreign Policy Association and we reimburse him for the cost of the manual. He decided that, since we did not meet at the library because of COVID-19, he would donate the funds to our AAUW branch for programs. Thank you, Jim. It is much appreciated.

MembershipLinda KarpLindakarp@gmail.comDiane Koobdwkoob@gmail.com

Last month we had 55 unpaid members. I'm happy to say that this month we only have 18 who have still not sent in their dues! I'm sure that by next month they will all have rejoined!! Please send in your \$79 dues to our treasurer:

Beverly Schechtman 100 S. Berkley Sq. Unit 9G Atlantic City NJ 08401,

We have many meetings, activities, programs and special interest groups for you to participate in. Thanks to Zoom, AAUW is active and this gives us a chance to still be together in a safe way.

Let's try to each bring in one new member for this coming year. AAUW is only successful with your support. Thanks for your continued commitment to this worthwhile organization!

Please welcome our new member: Nancy Sudol

112 54th Street

Ocean City, NJ 08221

(609) 271-2188 Ceego99@aol.com

STEM Gail Davis ghdath@comcast.net

Not too much 'new' except we seem to be funded for our first camp, but should need about \$42.000 for our second camp next summer. Sooooo. If you are looking for a place to put some spare dollars- please consider TECH trek. - checks made out to AWCO and sent to Dr. Claudine Keenan. 230 E. Ridgewood Ave, Galloway, NJ 08205. Any amount is welcome and THANK YOU.

If you wish to volunteer to interview for the 2021 camp please contact me.

Fundraising	Carol Zerbe	czpaints@verizon.net
<u> </u>	Kathy Zeigenfus	Kzeigenfus@aol.com

Keep an eye out for our invitation for our fall fundraiser "No Calorie Luncheon."

INTEREST GROUPS

Conversational Spanish Jeannette Flax jcflax@yahoo.com

Thanks to two technological geniuses, our Spanish conversation group has continued to meet every Monday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 using Zoom. Northfield Library is not ready to allow meetings so we will continue by Internet. Our conversations are fun and we are trying to retain our fluency. If you'd like to join us, please contact me! (609) 653-6177 or send me an e-mail.

International Studies Lynne Walters rrwalters321@hotmail.com

The Great Decisions discussion program recently ended for this year. The program is usually hosted by the Margate Library. This year with the help of Jim Cahill, the library director, we were able to continue the program remotely.

Each participant pays the library for a book used with the program. Because of the unusual circumstances this year, the money has been donated by the Margate Library to AAUW for programs furthering our goals. We greatly appreciate the Margate Library's donation on our behalf.



Book Group	Mary Lou Breidenstine	breidensti@aol.com
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The dates for summer book club have been changed. This August we will attempt Zoom meetings. 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

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. Our first meeting in the fall will be a discussion on "Unsheltered" by Barbara Kingsolver. Looking forward to virtually seeing everyone. To be added or removed from the Book Group information list, send me an email.

Travel Group Carolyn Bassett geoca41@gmail.com

The Travel Group is regrouping and will resume meetings in the fall (via ZOOM). Let Carolyn know if you have a trip you would like to present. Phone: 609 937-9095

For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

This group is meeting about every two weeks via ZOOM. We are reading Ibram Kendi's book, **How to Be an AntiRacist**, and we cover about two chapters at a time. During our meeting we discuss what we have read and also current articles, podcasts, etc. suggested by group members. We are planning a presentation for the September Branch meeting. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 6 at one pm. Please let Carolyn know if you want to attend so she can send you a ZOOM invitation. At that meeting we will be discussing Chapters 10 and 11 in Kendi's book.

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.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays	4 pm	Conversational Spanish
August 6	1:00 pm	For A More Equal Society Zoom Discussion
August 7	10:30 am	Book Club: "The Doll's House" and "Miss Brill" by Katherine Mansfield
August 14	10:30 am	Book Club: "The Pursuit of Love" by Nancy Mitford
August 19	7 pm	Program Event: Wine, Women, and Whatever
August 21	10:30 am	Book Club: "The Prime of Miss Jean Brody" and "The Abbess of Crewe" by Muriel Spark
Sept 16	7 pm	Branch Meeting

Photo Album

Wine, Women and Whatever via Zoom on July 15, 2020



Some of our participants and presenters



Arlene Groch
President and presenter on polymer clay jewelry
making techniques



Susan Gross
Presented on polymer clay jewelry with Arlene



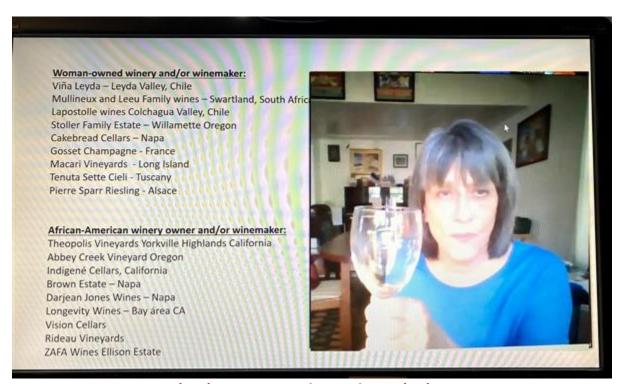
Jackie Shelley-Tasoff read her original poetry.



Lisa Goodwin: MC of the Event



Arlene demonstrates techniques used with polymer clay to create beautiful jewelry.



Tula educates us on wine tasting and culture.