

Serving Women For Over One Hundred Years

President's Message

Arlene Groch

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Hello everybody,

We have a lot to crow about, and I'm going to do just that! Wait till you see what our new and "old" members have done this summer to update our Branch procedures and prepare for a very productive year.

Anne Carson has taken on the position of Digital Forum Editor and created this new Forum format. I think the material is attractive, well organized and readable. Do you agree?

Pam Tyson created the enclosed Fall Flyer and somehow managed to include a ton of information and several very impactful photos, all without making it seem crowded. I hope all of you will participate in all of these excellent fall programs.

Anne has been a member since 2018. Pam is a brand new member! So also is **Nancy Sudol**, a registered nurse who volunteers in two free medical clinics, serving folks without health insurance even while this Pandemic kills 1000 or more people every day in our country. **Janet Younghans**, our newest member, also donates her time and talents to a worthwhile cause. Janet is co-leader of Moms Demand Action, which advocates for enactment of rational gun safety laws.

We are very grateful that nine talented women chose to share their talents with AAUW so far this year. Each month I'll introduce you to a few more so we can get to know all of them.

Linda Karp, our very capable Membership Vice President who joined only last year, has almost completed personally calling every member whose dues are or were still unpaid. Her conversations are working, and she is on the way to reducing the usual annual membership attrition by over half. Meanwhile, she is simultaneously recruiting new members and welcoming those who joined from other sources. On September 30th we will have an Orientation Program Meeting on Zoom so Board Members and Special Interest Group Leaders can share information with our new members.

Meanwhile, other new and long-time members worked all summer on important "back of the house" structural matters. **Jackie Shelley-Tassoff**, our multi-talented Program Vice President and her devoted committee members also made great progress updating our By-Laws and creating interesting and important Branch programs. Newish member **Lois Fried**, our super-credentialed Finance Chair, is working on a 2021 budget and a complete financial report. Stay tuned for more on this soon. **Kathy Ziegenfus** and **Carol Zerbe** and their crew created a unique and creative fund raising event which also will be unveiled soon. And **Karen Poorman** and her committee members are examining creative and effective ways to put our charitable donations to work!

Finally, I have signed the **Bank of America Trustee Termination Agreement** and **Jackie and I** signed the **Community Foundation of South Jersey Donor Advisor Agreement**. Our Trust Funds will soon be transferred from the Bank to the Community Fund. I'm thrilled that we have become a member of this community of giving people and look forward to meeting and cooperating with the leaders of other philanthropic groups to better serve our community. The Foundation also offers training for leadership and fund-raising, programs in which all of our members can participate. Here is a [link](#) to one coming up on October 23rd. I hope you will join me there. More information on this organization is provided below.

At a time when many volunteer organizations are hungering for volunteers and leadership, our Branch has many dedicated, strong, creative leaders and vibrant, forward-looking activist programs. I'm very proud to have the honor of leading this amazing group of women during today's challenging times.

Arlene

P.S. The Democratic and Republican Conventions agreed on one thing: the November 3rd election results will decide between two very different versions of America. The one thing we can do about it is **VOTE**. The rules have changed under Governor Murphy's recent Executive Order that governs this year's Mail-in Balloting Procedures. Here's a summary of how to vote this fall.

- Each active registered voter will receive a vote-by-mail ballot with return postage paid envelopes on or about October 5th.
- While a few Polling Places will be open, the voting machines will not be used except for the few people who sign an Affidavit that they are handicapped and therefore unable to vote other than by machine.
- Please vote by mail immediately by placing your sealed ballot in a post office mailbox, at the post office or into a secure ballot drop box.
- By voting early you will help prevent post office backlog on November 3rd.
- If you nevertheless want to vote your Mail-In ballot in person at your designated polling place, you may do so. But you must bring your ballot with you to prove you have not already voted by mail. (If you don't produce it you may still be able to vote, but only by provisional ballot.)

Membership Vice-President

Linda Karp

Lindakarp@gmail.com

Our monthly meetings provide an opportunity to meet with other members as well as to enjoy interesting and enlightening programs on a variety of subjects.

We have had wonderful Zoom programs since last March, and they have given our members that chance to be together in a safe manner. As we approach the fall season, we look forward to welcoming new members to AAUW. We have added 8 new members since January. We will be officially welcoming each of them, and any other new members, at a New Member Orientation on September 30th, 7 pm via Zoom.

Please join me in welcoming our new member:

Janet Yunghans	1957 Tuckahoe Road	609-335-2270
tuckahoe1@comcast.net	Petersburg, NJ 08270	

If you have a friend that might be interested in joining, please send me her name and I'll contact her. Let's try to each bring in one new member for this coming year. AAUW is only successful with your support.

Stay safe!

Program Vice-President

Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff

jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

Where Do We Go From Here?

For a More Just Society, a study group lead by Carolyn Bassett, has been focused for over a year exploring the many ways systemic racism and white privilege impact all of us. Four members will share some of what we have learned.

- 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

Join us Wednesday, September 16 at 7pm via Zoom at our first branch meeting of our 2020-2021 year.

Corresponding Secretary

Kris Baker

Kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

As Corresponding Secretary, each month I mail out The Forum to members who need a paper copy in the mail. I also send cards by mail to members for: Get Well, Thank You, Sympathy on the death of a member or someone in the member's family who has passed away. Just send me an email message if you know of someone you would like to receive a card on behalf of AAUW.

FundraisingCarol Zerbe
Kathy Zeigenfusczpaints@verizon.net
Kzeigenfus@aol.com

The Fundraiser Committee is giving members advance notice that you will be receiving our invitation to the "No Calorie Luncheon" at the end of September. It will be sent to your mailing address listed with our branch, so be on the lookout starting September 25th!

STEM

Gail Davis

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While we are still uncertain we continue to plan curriculum for two weeks of Tech Trek and two overnights of Alumni camp. Curriculum is being planned by Ann Marchesani, camp director. We will need LOTS of donated snacks and, of course \$\$\$\$. And if you would like to interview nominated students please contact me.

Community Foundation of SJ

Arlene Groch

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As the newest member of the Community Foundation of South Jersey, our AAUW Branch is now part of a large group of local women's philanthropy organizations. On October 23rd at 10 am, CFSJ program will give us an opportunity to meet other women also doing meaningful work in our area. I hope many of you will join me at this Zoom program on **The Power of Female Philanthropy**.

This "Why We Give" event "explores what makes female philanthropy unique and introduces diverse groups of women to others that are actively addressing needs in our region." [...] "There are many communities of women quietly making a difference in South Jersey. Unfortunately, they don't know that the other groups exist. This event provides an opportunity to break down silos and offers an opportunity for women of different backgrounds to learn about the meaningful work being done by women in our insular, yet impactful communities," says Kyle Ruffin, chair of Why We Give. "We hope to introduce them and open the door for potential collaboration, integration and greater impact."

Public Policy

Jenine Brown

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead, 1978 AAUW Achievement Award Recipient

As we move into a new season and new volume of the Forum, AAUW is asking us to help advance gender equity and economic security for all women and girls AAUW has deemed 2020 A Momentous Year. It marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. In this compelling election year the stakes are high. Title IX is under threat, a gender pay gap still exists, and there is a dearth of women leaders. The 2020 Vision initiative calls for reflection on the progress achieved and a look ahead to creating more future equity.

While the COVID-19 crisis presents challenges for the upcoming election, members can learn about its impact on voter access, gain key "get out the vote" and voter education resources, by viewing the video at

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/> This contains information to identify priority policy issues facing women and families this election.

Source: AAUW.org

Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

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We are slowly starting up our tutoring program with the Atlantic County Collaborative for Education Equity (AC Ed Equity). They have started advertising again through ACCC and we have our first tutor assignment! Once we get more comfortable with the process, we will ratchet things up a bit. We are looking for volunteers so if you are at all interested in tutoring a teacher to help them pass the State-required test so they can move ahead in this World, please contact Virginia Rettig at rettigva@yahoo.com or 609-408-2065.

INTEREST GROUPS

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

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The AAUW Book Group will begin its fall schedule on Friday October 9 at 10:30. On Zoom, of course. Shelley Cohen will facilitate a discussion of Barbara Kingsolver's "Unsheltered". This book is of particular local interest because it shifts in time from the Vineland, N.J. of today to the Vineland of the late 1800s. Who knew that Vineland was established by Mr. Landis as a new "Utopian" community!?

Two additional books will complete our fall series. They are: "The Testaments" by Margaret Atwood and "Blonde" by Joyce Carol Oates. All of these books should be easily available at any library.

This summer we read strong British women novelists. For the fall we continue with strong women, two Americans and one Canadian. Dates and times for these will follow later.

Hope to see many of you on Zoom. If you haven't tried it yet, you will find it easier than you think. Please reach out by email if you would like to be included in the Zoom discussion invitations.

Film Group

Terry Dailey

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As movie theaters continue to be closed due to COVID, there will be no screenings in September. I will continue to monitor the situation and when they reopen will suggest films that those who feel congregating in a closed space might want to see. In the meanwhile, I and other members will continue to send those in the group emails with suggestions to stream safely at home.

The most recent suggestions include, for those of you with HBO, *Queen and Slim*. It is very timely regarding Black Lives Matter and police tactics. A young black couple on a first date is stopped while driving. The officer escalates a harmless stop and winds up shot. The couple flees. They form a bond and have many adventures. This is a concise description of a complex film, but it was an excellent movie. Many of you may already know about it, but it came out in theaters at the exact wrong time with the virus so streaming will be the only way to see it. Plans are underway to explore the possibility of a Zoom meeting for those who have watched it and would like to discuss it further. Also, for those who like British TV, Acorn is a real bargain streaming service at \$5 per month. It has a large inventory of both fictional and reality shows (gardening, walking).

Please stay safe and well so that we can see each other in the future. If you are interested in receiving the email of suggested films, send me an email.

For a More Just Society

Carolyn Bassett

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See information above in Programs about our upcoming presentation Sept. 16 at the Branch Meeting.

Next meeting is August 27 at 1pm on ZOOM. We will be discussing chapters 12 and 13 of HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST by Ibram Kendi. Let Carolyn know if you want an invitation.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com

Although the Northfield Library is not yet available for our meetings, we continue to gather weekly via Zoom on Mondays from 4:00 to 6:00, thanks to two of our competent members (not yours truly...). We have lively conversations and welcome anybody who would like to practice speaking Spanish. Contact me if you are interested in joining us!

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

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The Travel Group's next program will be on a trip to Spain presented by Don Smedley. He and Connie have shared several previous trips with us, most recently one to Australia during which we connected with their son speaking from Australia. Since Connie didn't go on this trip, Don will be the guide. Look for an update with the date later, and let Carolyn know if you want to be sent a ZOOM invitation or if you have a trip you would like to present.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

All Meetings via Zoom. Please contact Group Leader for Zoom Meeting Information

Mondays	4 pm	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
Sept 9	7 pm	Board Meeting All members welcome	Arlene Groch
Sept 16	7 pm	Branch Meeting See program flyer for details	Arlene Groch
Sept 30	7 pm	New Member Welcoming Meeting New members, Board members & Program Chairs	Linda Karp
Oct 9	10:30 am	Book Discussion "Unsheltered" by Barbara Kingsolver	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Oct 23	10:30 am	CFSJ program The Power of Female Philanthropy	Arlene Groch