



Serving Women For Over One Hundred Years

President's Message

Arlene Groch

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Dear Members,

What a wonderful single day. My email inbox contained these three emails:

1. Pam Tyson wrote: **"It is good to keep learning. And I have found after joining AAUW and STAR, how much more I appreciate and want to learn more."**
2. Beverly Schechtman wrote: **Please welcome** Sandra Kahn, our newest member.
3. Judith Dickerson belatedly responded to an invitation I'd sent to her when I first became President of our Branch back last year wrote: **"I'd love to join! How do I proceed?"**

That got me reflecting on this Message I'd written in the September Forum:

My challenge as Branch President is to speak truth as I see it with our strong, highly educated members so that, together, we can progress as swiftly and significantly as possible.

I'm feeling very energized by what we've accomplished so far. We have a wonderful organization and a lot to share with women who need only to be asked to join. So **ASK!** When you do, here's a quick summary of what you can tell them we've accomplished in just the past 18 months:

Membership: We added roughly 34 new members! Thank you, **Linda Karp!** This alone is an accomplishment worthy of celebration. I believe and hope that our reputation has grown that we are a welcoming place for educated women to share, learn, collaborate and contribute. *Please share that message to help us keep growing.*

The Trust Fund: 😊 Our AC-AAUW Fund is the newest member of the Community Foundation of South Jersey! The sum of \$57,973.22 has been transferred from the Bank of America to the CFSJ, whose purpose is:

The Community Foundation of South Jersey (CFSJ) helps South Jersey residents harness the power of philanthropy to transform their community and the issues they care about most. The Foundation helps donors to create funds—both large and small—achieve positive results with their generosity in South Jersey and beyond. By working with the Community Foundation, donors can engage in philanthropy that is innovative, visionary, and effective.

Structural: After many work sessions by another group of hard-working members led by **Jackie Shelley-Tassoff**, the ByLaws committee will make its recommendation to the Board meeting December 2nd at 7pm. As always, all branch members are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. . If approved by majority vote of the Board, the By-Laws as they may have been Amended by the Board will then be referred to the full Branch. On January 13th, 7pm, our Branch will meet to discuss and vote on the By-Laws. Each person who is a member on January 13th is entitled to vote. A two-thirds majority is required for adoption of amendments to our Bylaws, so please mark your calendar for that day in bold type.

Fundraising: In a creative fashion, **Kathy Zeigenfus** and **Carol Zerbe** and their dedicated committee are managing to raise a LOT of money this year, even without a real-time dinner party. I will let them reveal the wonderful total to date.

From our controversial September, 2019 forum where the **County Candidates** fully expressed themselves, to the upcoming **November 2020 Challah, Soup and Onion-slicing cooking demo** by Chef Kelly, here is a memory lane travel through some of what we've written, learned, taught and tasted:

- **Women who served** in the military inspired and challenged us with their stories.
- My **published Press editorial** proclaimed "our opposition to system racism, our support for Black Lives Matter and our recognition that those of us who are White [...] need to learn how to be anti-racists"
- Throughout the summer 8 brave members shared/demoed their **passions and hobbies**
- Kathy Zeigenfus taught us so much about the **100th Anniversary of the Suffragists' fight** for the vote for white women – it took dozens more years till Black and Women of Color got the vote 😞
- Carolyn Bassett created a bi-weekly study group, "**For a More Equal Society**"
- Then her study group taught AAUW members from throughout NJ how systemic racism and white privilege impact all of us, as we learned from Carolyn Bassett about **The Invention of Race**, from Nadine Flynn about **Redlining**, and from Ann-Maria Guevara about **Mass Incarceration**
- The **impact** of their study group and program continues: at least two other Branches have asked Carolyn to help them form similar study groups
- We learned delicious **Vegetarian Dinner Recipes** from Linda Karp
- And we learned the **History of Voter Suppression** from Mary Maudsley and Claire Abernathy.
- All that plus lots of great book, film and travel discussions.

My cup runneth over. Just imagine what we will accomplish in 2021!

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlene Groch

Membership Vice-President

Linda Karp

Lindakarp@gmail.com



We are now approaching the end of the 2020 Membership year. We are very excited to have welcomed 13 new members since January 2020.

A first step in growing an organization and fulfilling its mission is to attract new members. While it may seem simple, recruiting new members has always presented a challenge for organizations. New members bring new ideas, and new friendships. Let's set a goal of at least matching this year's growth of 13 new members....that's only one per month!

Now as we are looking forward to the coming year, ...let's each try to work on reaching our goal.

- Bring a friend to one of our Zoom programs.
- Tell her what a wonderful, worthwhile organization this is!
- Ask her to join AAUW
- Word of mouth is the best way to promote us
- Send me her name
- It's that simple!

Please welcome our newest member:

Sandy Kahn sandyk1s@comcast.net
107 So. Derby Ave (609)214-1234
Ventnor, NJ 08406



Happy Thanksgiving to each of you. May you enjoy your families, whether in person or at a Zoom Thanksgiving Table! Stay safe and Best wishes.

November 18th

Celebrate Thanksgiving



and relax with AAUW friends and guests as we watch Chef Kelly, Director of the ACCC Culinary Art Institute, demonstrate how to cook a heart-warming soup and bake challah bread on November 18th at 7 pm via Zoom. Because this will be a demonstration only, recipes will be provided upon request after the program.

December 16th

A Celebration of Us:

Honoring Our 50 Year Members and Our Past Accomplishments

Get dressed up for the holidays or wear your vintage 1970s garb and accompany Mary Lou Breidenstine as she presents A Walk Down Memory Lane to discuss how events of the 1970s changed society for women. Carolyn Bassett will present a slideshow of photographs depicting our Branch's past programs and events. Then some of our 50-year members will give brief oral histories of the STAR program, the AAUW Lecture Series, the College Fair, and other activities. A slideshow of the members being honored will follow, and we will keep Zoom open for an additional half hour so attendees can reminisce and chat.



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.

Fundraising

Carol Zerbe

czpaints@verizon.net

Kathy Zeigenfus

Kzeigenfus@aol.com

The Fundraising committee is pleased to announce our latest proceeds from the Lucy/Ethel No Calorie Luncheon. Linda Harmon reports that we have collected the following amounts:

Scholarship: \$3,061

Tech Trek: \$4,601



Having received a note from Karen Poorman about the scholarship funds, we suggest that we wait for final totals and then allow the proper committees to take the next steps. Please send donations by **November 6**, payable to AWCO to:

Linda Harmon

31 Jill Avenue

Marmora, NJ 08223



Have you watched the videos of the former Tech Trek students? They can be found here on this [link](#) for the information and videos about Tech Trek. It is inspiring! Thank you again for your consideration of a generous donation to AWCO for Tech Trek and Scholarships.

Thanks to everyone for a super job! Happy Halloween!

STEM Camp preparations continue. We are currently planning for TECH TREK in person camp and preparing kits if we have to go virtual.

Of course, we would prefer in-person (fingers crossed).

Fundraising continues and if you would like to volunteer for an in-person camp as Dorm Mom, day counselor or perhaps a workshop presenter, please contact me. Many thanks to all those who support this important experience for these girls!!!



Community Foundation of SJ

Arlene Groch

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I am very proud that our AAUW-AC is now partnered with the Community Foundation of South Jersey [CFSJ or “the Foundation”]. Here’s one reason why:



When COVID-19 hit South Jersey the CFSJ created the South Jersey COVID-19 Response Fund to raise and rapidly deploy flexible emergency resources to 501(c)3 non-profits in our 8county region which were immediately impacted by the pandemic. The first donations came from individual members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors and from members of its Community Leadership and Engagement Committee. Those folks quickly raised more money from area businesses such as Atlantic City Electric and from Holman Enterprises a family business headquartered in South Jersey. They then sought and received grants, including \$475,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. To date, the South Jersey COVID-19 Response Fund has raised and distributed over \$663,000!

To be absolutely clear: Not a penny of our AAUW-AC Fund’s assets went into the South Jersey COVID-19 Response Fund for two reasons: First, we had not yet transferred our money from the Bank to the CFSJ, and Secondly, even if our Fund we had been in the CFSJ, our Board had not voted to donate to the Covid-19 Fund. That does not mean that we should not consider doing so in the future.

As the pandemic continued the South Jersey COVID-19 Response Fund [CRF] continued to raise and distribute grants. Most recently, Andy Fraizer, Executive Director of the CFSJ announced results of the fourth round of grants awarded from the COVID-19 Response Fund. Twenty-one grants totaling \$180,000 were awarded to South Jersey nonprofits on the front lines supporting residents impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Some recent recipients which you may know and personally support are:

Arc of Cape May County – South Dennis, NJ With a grant of \$10,000, the Arc will purchase equipment and train staff to continue delivering social outreach support, remote enrichment activities, and enhance residents’ access to healthcare through new telemedicine technology across 17 group homes and assisted-living apartments in Cape May County.

CASA of Atlantic and Cape May Counties – Somers Point, NJ With a grant of \$5,000, CASA will purchase equipment and train volunteers to continue advocating for foster youth in Atlantic and Cape May counties remotely through technology. The grant funds an online case management system.

Jewish Family Service of Atlantic and Cape May Counties – Margate, NJ With a grant of \$10,000, Jewish Family Service of Atlantic and Cape May will continue operating their food pantry, provide transportation to seniors in order to access medical services, provide homeless services in partnership with AtlantiCare, and provide telehealth services.

Faith Baptist Church – Pleasantville, NJ With a grant of \$3,000 (and in partnership with the Community Food Bank of NJ), the Church will purchase equipment to continue distributing food to the Pleasantville community.

Appel Farm Arts & Music Campus – Elmer is supplying virtual S.T.E.A.M. and arts lab programming, as well as distributing supplies and food assistance.

MudGirls Studios – Linwood is providing food assistance and emergency basic needs assistance.

Eastern Service Workers Association – Pleasantville is providing food assistance and emergency basic needs assistance.

Salvation Army Atlantic City – Union is supplying personal protective equipment and food assistance.

Perhaps now you will agree that our Trust Fund has found an appropriate new home!

Good and Welfare

Arlene Groch

aggroch@mac.com

I want to give you an update on why Diane Koob, AAUW board member and my dear friend, has not been at recent meetings. After years in remission, Diane's cancer has recurred, and last week she was hospitalized again fighting a bout of sepsis. All of that has left her quite weak. But she is happy to be back home, resting and recuperating. To preserve her energy, please send me any messages you'd like conveyed to her. Thank you.

Scholarships

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com



The scholarship committee is awaiting the results of the scholarship fundraiser to be added to present available funds. Your generous support of this important cause is appreciated. The committee will meet virtually to determine the recommended direction of awards for this unusual year. Suggestions are welcome.

INTEREST GROUPS

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com



Join the Book Club on November 13 at 10:30 on Zoom. Margaret Atwood's "The Testaments" will be the topic for discussion.

On December 18 "Blonde" by Joyce Carol Oates is the topic.

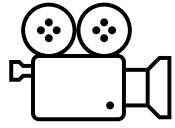
Looking ahead to the new year, we will focus on "Good Lord Bird" by James McBride and "Dr. Dealer" by George Anastasia. Hope to see all of you soon. Please reach out by email if you would like to be included in the Zoom discussion invitations.

Film Group

Terry Dailey

johnd4photo@aol.com

The Film Group will continue to support each other by making suggestions of content to stream at home.



There are actually many good series and films streaming due to few theater options. Anyone who wants to get on the list just needs to email me and I will add them to our group. As we do not all have all the streaming services and, thus, can not all view suggested films, I am not trying to organize Zoom discussions at this time. Please continue to stay safe and well so that we may see each other in the future at the movies! If you are interested in receiving the email of suggested films, send me an email.

For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com



We will meet on November 12 (Thursday) at 1 pm on ZOOM. If you are not already on my list and would like to join, please let me know. We have finished reading and discussing "How to be an Anti-Racist" by Ibram Kendi. At our next meeting we will discuss the movie "The Hate U Give" Many libraries have the DVD, and it is available on various streaming channels. Please email me if you are interested in joining the discussion or need assistance finding the movie.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com



Thanks to our competent tech people, we continue to meet on Zoom Mondays from 4:00 to 6:00. Our goal is to keep the fluency we have achieved, while learning new vocabulary and sharing our thoughts. If you'd like to join us, please contact me.

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

The TRAVEL GROUP IS BACK!

Thanks to Linda Karp for being the first travel group presenter of the year with her interesting program on her trip to China. I have two more programs lined up:



November 20, Friday, at 1 pm Linda Harmon will present a trip she made to Russia. It will be on ZOOM.



December 15, Tuesday, at 1 pm Anne Carson will present a bicycle trip she made with her husband down the Danube from Passau to Vienna in 2019. It will be on ZOOM also.

Sounds exciting, doesn't it? At least if we can't travel in person, we can travel vicariously!

Please let Carolyn know so she can send you the ZOOM link.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays	4 pm	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
Nov 6		Fundraiser Donations Due	Carol Zerbe & Kathy Zeigenfus
Nov 12	1:00 pm	For a More Equal Society The Hate You Give	Carolyn Bassett
Nov 13	10:30 am	Book Discussion The Testaments	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Nov 18	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting Chef Kelly Demonstration	Arlene Groch
Nov 20	1:00 pm	Travel Group Linda Harmon to China	Carolyn Bassett
Dec 2	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Agenda: By-laws review and recommendation vote	Arlene Groch
Dec 15	1:00 pm	Travel Group Anne Carson Biking the Danube	Carolyn Bassett
Dec 16	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting A Celebration of Us	Arlene Groch
Dec 18	10:30 am	Book Discussion Blonde	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Jan 13	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting Agenda: By-laws review and Branch vote	Arlene Groch