



Serving Women For Over One Hundred Years

President's Message

Arlene Groch

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Let's talk Politics and Policies

80-cents-on-a-dollar isn't fair: Remember the 1970's call to end the 60 cents-on-a-dollar Pay Gap? Here we are 50 years later there is still an 80¢ pay gap! Learn how the Paycheck Fairness Act will get us to 100 cents-on-a-dollar. See the details HERE. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/insights/>

It's all about education: Policies that lead to the Pay Gap start in pre-school and continue through college. Let's fight for a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. HERE is how.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-applauds-paycheck-fairness-act-introduction-in-congress/>

And about women's right to control our bodies: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/03/quick-facts-repro-rights-nsa.pdf>

We are the world: Why stop there? Let's take action on issues that deny or impede independence and dignity to girls and women across the globe. <https://www.aauw.org/issues/leadership/global-connections/>

2020 Vision: Marking a Momentous Year: AAUW National President Kim Church set out our issues and goals in THIS inspiring op-ed that I ask every member of our Branch to read. <https://www.nbcnews.com/know-your-value/feature/women-got-right-vote-100-years-ago-battle-equality-far-ncna1236937>

How can we, here in the Atlantic County Branch, help achieve these goals? By remembering that we are one of over 1000 AAUW Branches, and acting together we can achieve anything!

See these and other policies HERE <https://www.aauw.org/issues/>
and take Action HERE <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/iat/>

Membership Vice-President

Linda Karp

Lindakarp@gmail.com

As we approach the end of 2020, let's look forward to a good year in 2021. Our membership goal is to add at least one new member each month. We can easily do this if each of us does the following:

- 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!

Happy Holidays. Enjoy your families. Stay Safe. Social Distance. Wear a mask!

**Don't miss December's AAUW Program
December 16th**

A Celebration of Us:
Honoring Our 50 Year Members and Our Past Accomplishments

You'll enjoy ***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 social/political events and new inventions of the 1970's made such a difference in our lives, especially for women. Carolyn Bassett will present a slideshow of photographs depicting our Branch's past programs and achievements. Then some of our 50-year members will discuss the history of the STAR program, the AAUW Lecture Series, the College Fair, and other past Branch initiatives. A slideshow of our members being honored will follow. Make sure you're "there" to congratulate them. We will keep Zoom open for an additional half hour so attendees can reminisce and chat. It will be an evening to remember and rejoice in all we've accomplished in the past 50 years.



Atlantic County Branch Members to be honored:

Karen Aarons, Carolyn Bassett, Sarina Booye, Mary Lou Breidenstine, Lynn Caterson, Penelope DaGrossa, Pam Family, Stella Hordes, Virginia Gormley, Joan Leavy, Rosa Ojserkis, Audrey Owen, Carol Romano, Jan Smith, Joanne Stiefbold, and Gail Zona.

Thank you to our Program Committee members who worked diligently to offer ten programs during 2020.

Carolyn Bassett, Tula Christopoulos, Shelley Cohen, Lisa Goodwin,
Jill Slotoroff, Linda Karp, Mary Maudsley, Kathy Zeigenfus, Carol Zerbe

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 Fundraising committee is pleased to announce our latest proceeds from the Lucy/Ethel No Calorie Luncheon. We have collected the following amounts:

Scholarship: \$3,456
Tech Trek: \$4,506



Our "Calorie Free Luncheon" Fundraiser was extremely successful this year with a total amount raised at \$7962. By doing a hard copy letter soliciting for donations we made three times as much in donations as an actual luncheon! While we missed the personal interaction and enjoyment it was an amazing substitution and worked very effectively. A big thank you to the donors and to the committee members who worked hard on this endeavor!

As of November we are still in 'limbo' as to whether we will be able to have a 2021 class of Tech Trekkers and are preparing to conduct as virtual or on campus camps. I am fervently hoping for on campus even though it would be two solid weeks of Tech Trek and two Alumni overnight camps. As usual, you can volunteer yourself or funds. Let me know and I will send you the link for AWCO.



FYI: Taxpayers who do not itemize (and my CPA sister tells me I will not this year) can fully deduct up to \$300 dollars in charitable deductions. (it was part of the CARES act.)

Public Policy

Jenine Brown

Jb1nj@aol.com

Recently, much of our focus has been on the power women exercise through voting. Many Americans were inspired this month by the diversity of women elected to positions of power. Vice President-elect Kamala Harris became the first woman and the first Black American, Indian American and South Asian American to be elected to the second highest office in the land. The daughter of immigrants and a graduate of Howard University, Harris provides hope for a future where women can reach the highest heights.

However, sobering statistics still remain indicating that the wage gaps for Black women and Latinas are not only wider than the gap for white women, and will likely take more than eight times longer to close. The pandemic has compounded these problems. Pay equity will continue to be an AAUW priority. Full report on the gender pay gap can be found at aauw.org/resources,

Source: Mission&Action newsletter/ aauw.org

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 COVIT-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!

Scholarships

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com



The scholarship committee will be meeting on November 30th to make recommendations to the board for scholarships for this year. If you have specific suggestions for scholarships, contact me. The scholarships *do not* have to be for college courses. They can be for camps, seminars, virtual learning opportunities and more. Think outside the box!

Facebook

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com



Closed group Facebook page. Every AAUW-AC member on Facebook should join. To join, go to “AAUW Atlantic Members,” answer the questions and you will be sent an invitation if you are a member. Feel free to submit articles, opinions and news. *Conversation is welcome.* This page is not open to non-members. It is not a newsletter. It is a private page to connect the members of our branch. You can send information for your group's meeting as well as pictures. Send recommendations for good television programs to watch, a book you read that you like, COVID information that you might want to share, and activities in which you are involved.. It is a social/informational page for members of the Atlantic County Branch and members need to be involved to keep it active.

There is also a public page. “AAUW Atlantic County Branch.” You can “like” the page and receive notifications when something is posted. That page can be seen by everyone. It should deal with AAUW Atlantic business only. If you submit a picture of anyone, be certain that they have approved it. We generally do not put names on the public site.

Items of Interest

Atlantic City Women's Hall of Fame Tula Christopoulos

tegea222@gmail.com

2021 marks 25 years that the Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame (ACWHF) has annually honored several exceptional women of Atlantic County. Many among this elite group of women are and have been associated with AAUW. To showcase them and their achievements from 1996 to 2019, the Board of Trustees is offering a look back at each year's honorees and their achievements on the organization's FaceBook page: Please search and LIKE Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame.



Like many organizations, ACWHF had to postpone the 2020 Induction Ceremony. You will soon see notifications on its re-scheduling for 2021.

Aside from FB, you can take a look at the website at www.acwhf.org where if you want to nominate someone to be honored, you will find the nomination form with criteria there. In addition, the Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame offers scholarships to seniors in high school planning to attend college. An application form is also on the website.

Sincerely,

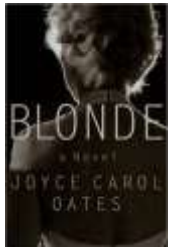
Tula (Trustee, ACWHF)

INTEREST GROUPS

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com

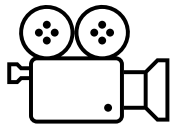


Join the Book Club on December 18 at 10:30 on Zoom. On "Blonde" by Joyce Carol Oates is the topic. Looking ahead to the new year, we will focus on "Good Lord Bird" by James McBride and "Dr. Dealer" by George Anastasia. Hope to see all of you soon. Please reach out by email if you would like to be included in the Zoom discussion invitations.

Film Group

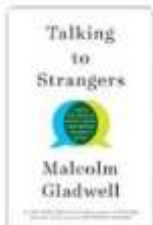
Terry Dailey

johnd4photo@aol.com



Although the Tilton has reopened, we are erring on the side of caution and continue to stream movies and series at home. The group is active in emailing suggestions to each other. If you would like to be added to the email list, just contact me via email at the above address. Please continue to stay safe and well.

We will meet on ZOOM December 10 (Thursday) at 1pm. Members are asked to read the article "The Uncounted" by Dexter Filkins from the **New Yorker** of September 7, 2020. It has to do with voter suppression . The article is available online by using Google search.



If possible also get a copy of Malcolm Gladwell's book, **Talking to Strangers** (Atlantic County Library system has 8 copies, Linwood Library has a copy, probably other local libraries too). Read chapters 11 and 12: the Kansas City Experiments and Sandra Bland. Gladwell makes a link between a change in policing protocols and the arrest of a black woman in Texas who was initially stopped for failing to signal a lane change, jailed, and committed suicide while in jail.



Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

rettigva@yahoo.com

We have successfully tutored one teacher who has passed all of her Praxis tests! We are now tutoring a second. While we are going slow due to COVID, it is very rewarding tutoring these women to help them get where they want to be in their careers. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com



Thanks to our superbly talented member, we are continuing to meet using Zoom on Mondays from 4:00 to 6:00. All are welcome, even if some of us prefer to listen rather than talk a lot. We have fun, so if you'd like to join us, please contact me!

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

The TRAVEL GROUP going strong! Come travel "virtually" with us on Zoom.



December 15, Tuesday, at 1 pm Anne Carson will be presenting a trip she and her husband took on bicycles along the Danube from Passau to Vienna in 2019. It will be on ZOOM.

Many thanks to Linda Harmon who gave a very interesting presentation on her trip to Russia with Viking Cruises. If you would like to get a link for the program, please let Carolyn know.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays	4 pm	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
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