



SERVING WOMEN FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS

President's Message

Arlene Groch

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Dear Friends,

I feel incredibly lucky to be president of our AAUW-AC family. You've made 2020 an amazing year in spite of the pandemic. We should take this time to rest and reflect, but first I'm going to acknowledge just a taste of your accomplishments and hope you'll forgive me if I miss you or what you've done for AAUW in 2020.

We learned how to find the "mute", "chat" and "video" buttons on our Zoom windows! And we "unmuted" and visited with AAUW-NJ friends whom we had not seen in months. Many of us participated in monthly Branch meetings and lots of committee meetings which often were a lot easier on Zoom than they had been when we had to get dressed [even below the waist] and venture out on a cold or rainy day.

Our communications were amazing: Anne Carson created colorful, attractive, easily read Forums and Pam Tyson created similarly colorful, attractive, easily read flyers for each of our meetings. If you're among the 45% of our members who don't usually open our emails, I hope you'll reconsider.

Word by word and month nearly a year, the members of the By-laws Committee have examined National's and our By-laws to correct, improve and redraft them for your consideration. If the Board votes affirmatively at its Dec. 30th 7pm meeting, they will be proposed to the entire Branch for all members to consider and vote upon at our January 13th 7pm Branch Meeting. Please be sure to read the proposed By-laws prior to that meeting. **They are attached to this email.** For all of this we owe a huge thanks to Jackie Shelley-Tassoff and her crew, Lynn Caterson, Mary Maudsley, Carolyn Bassett, Joan Leavy and Stella Hordes.

We welcomed 16 new members this year, in spite of the pandemic! That's what happens when you combine innovative, inspirational, informative programs [produced by Jackie and our Program Committee crew of Shelley Cohen, Carolyn Bassett, Mary Maudsley, Kathy Zeigenfus, Carol Zerbe, Lisa Goodwin, Tula Christopoulos and Jill Slotoroff] - and an amazingly industrious Membership Vice President, Linda Karp. What a combo!

Meanwhile, Karen Poorman and her Scholarship Committee Connie Smedley, Stella Hordes, Lois Fried, Joan Vicar, Virginia Rettig, Jackie Shelley and Rosalind Norrell-Nance made sure that the funds raised by Kathy Zeigenfus, Carol Zerbe and her Fundraising Committee team of Ann Marchesani, Anne Carson, Linda Karp and Jill Slotoroff.

Kathy Zigenfus and the Fundraising Committee had a spectacular success this year, raising over \$7,000 for STEM and Scholarships, but needs YOUR help to be able to surpass that in 2021.

I've tried to attend almost all committee meetings, so I know how hard they've been working. But committees are also where the fun is, and where YOU can make the greatest contribution to our branch. So please get involved; let me or the committee chairperson know of your interest in their work. I know you will be welcomed with open arms.

I wish all of my AAUW-AC friends a healthy and happy 2021,

Arlene

Welcome 2021! We are all hoping to see a much better & safer year!

Our membership goal for 2021 is to add at least one new member each month.

Let your friends know about AAUW, and what wonderful programs/interests Groups we have. We will continue to meet on Zoom. This has proved to be a great way to get together, especially during the cold winter nights!

Membership for the first half of 2021 is half of National's \$59 fee plus \$10 each for AAUW-NJ and our Branch, i.e. \$50. Send me their names and I'll contact them with more Membership Information. New members bring new ideas and friendships!

Please welcome our newest member:

Samera Bishop
SAF-Student Affiliate-Branch
1807 north Mississippi Ave Apt b
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Phone: 215-416-7030
E-Mail: sameradb30@gmail.com

Samera is a student at Rutgers Camden in her final year of the BSW program.

Happy New Year! Stay Safe. Social Distance. Wear a mask!

Here's what's coming in 2021

January 11th at 7 pm – Like A Woman, a documentary film directed by Gail Mooney, will be virtually screened and sponsored by AAUW – Madison, NJ Branch. This is a series of short videos about women who are working in traditionally male dominated professions. Following the film, Gail Mooney will hold a short virtual discussion. Parents and daughters are welcome to attend. You can view a trailer here: <https://kellymooney.com/like-a-woman-multimedia-project/>



Registration Required: Must be received by January 8, 2021

Please register using this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/PM3YY>

February 17th at 7 pm – So You Think It Can't Happen To Your Family: The Drug Crisis in Atlantic County. Lisa Bee, Leader of Angels in Motion in the Atlantic County area, and Eric Scheffler, Atlantic County Sheriff, will share their personal experiences, discuss how people become addicted, what are the "warning signs," and the impact of addiction on law enforcement.

You can read about the history of Angels in Motion at: Angels in Motion | Changing the way those suffering with the disease of addiction are treated, one life at a time. (aimangelsinmotion.org)

March 17th at 7 pm – Racism in America: The Native American Experience.

Dr. Daryl Thorne, Assistant Professor of Human Relations at Trinity University in Washington, DC, and a representative from the New Jersey Nanticoke and Lenape Indian Tribes will help us understand the real world impact of US Native American policy over the past 400 years.

April 21st at 7 pm - Climate Change in NJ and What We're Doing About It.

Sea level rise, changing weather patterns, and human actions are taking their toll on the New Jersey coastal plain. This panel discussion, led by Virginia Rettig, Refuge Manager of Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, will highlight the biggest challenges we face, and share what our scientists are doing to "stem the tide."

Corresponding Secretary

Kris Baker

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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.

STEM

Gail Davis

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Thank you to all who have contributed to Tech Trek. Many were very generous with stimulus checks, purchasing via Amazon Smile, and other donations. At this point National has declared Tech Trek camps to be virtual; however they have agreed to revisit that decision in the Spring. Ann Marchesani, camp director, has teachers working on virtual core classes and planning to postal mail core classes and workshops to selected students. We have yet to begin recruitment for our 2021 class of Tech Trek. So we will have teacher, materials, and postal expenses for the program.



Again- thank you all for your financial and volunteer support 👍🍌🎄

Public Policy

Jenine Brown

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Covid 19 continues to be a full fledged crisis, as it has been with us for the better part of a year. The highly contagious virus is having a striking impact on the lives and health of many. We are just beginning to analyze the long term impact on our economic health. As in so many other social issues, there appears to be an imbalance in how Covid 19 interferes with lives. Because gender and wealth are often the determinant in successful coping within the pandemic, those with part time jobs lacking benefits or retirement income fare poorly. On December 21, the first Covid 19 vaccination in New Jersey was administered to Maritza Beniquez, an emergency room nurse. In policy and practice, our AAUW branch aspires to help achieve greater equity for society.

Community Foundation of SJ

Arlene Groch

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As we all know, the stock market has been on a roller coaster ride in 2020. Nevertheless, our conservatively placed Trust Fund has weathered the storm and now has a balance of \$61,544.72.

**Facebook**

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

Some information and hints concerning protecting yourself from email hacks and Facebook cloning are posted on our closed group page on Facebook. "Like" the open Facebook page (AAUW Atlantic County Branch) and join the closed group which is members only (AAUW Atlantic members).



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. *Conversation is welcome.* 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

Proposed ByLaws Revision

Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff

jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

Bylaws Committee Report

Join us on **January 13th at 7 pm** for our first 2021 Branch Meeting to discuss and approve the Bylaws attached to this month's Forum email. Just click on the Button on the front of the email.

Bylaws are the basic governance structure for an organization, and in this case, a branch of AAUW. They are the foundation upon which our organization is built. In our Bylaws certain articles are mandatory while other articles are ones of preference or need.

The Bylaws Committee began by reviewing our 2017 Bylaws to determine how our Bylaws could better support our Branch's operation both as it exists today and as we hope it will become in the future.

We were fortunate to have Lynn Caterson on our team to provide us with both legal advice and her past experience in revising our Branch's Bylaws. In addition, Arlene Groch and Mary Maudsley provided additional legal expertise, and Carolyn Bassett, Stella Hordes, and Joan Leavy provided their insights based on their past experiences as former Branch presidents. I am grateful for their diligence and patience as we reviewed, discussed and amended the Bylaws of the AAUW of Atlantic County Branch.

Highlights:

- Articles I through VII are mandatory and Articles XIII, XIV and XV are required by National AAUW, although the language of each is state and branch specific.
- Article VIII – Financial Administration is expanded to include both the Finance Officer's and Treasurer's duties.
- Article IX – Officers and Duties. In this article, we:
 - o reduced the number of elected officers from 8 to 5: President, Program Vice President, Membership Vice President, Finance Officer, and Board Secretary.
 - o provided for an additional number of appointed positions from 5 to 10, naming 8: Treasurer, Fundraiser Chair, STEM Coordinator, Community Partnerships, Scholarship, Public Policy, Public Information and Diversity Officer
 - o designated the Forum Editor and Event Coordinator positions as Appointed Administrative Officers due to the unique skill set required for these administrative rather than policy positions
 - o board positions that were eliminated include: Historian, STAR Liaison, and Corresponding Secretary. The first two positions haven't been filled in recent years and with the use of email, the duties of the Corresponding Secretary will be assumed under the Membership Committee. The Corresponding Secretary will continue to hold her Board position until the end of her term in May, 2021.
- I encourage you to read Articles IX through XII to understand the underlying administrative processes that support the administration of the Branch by the Board and various committees, and the Branch's requirements for holding meetings.

I look forward to seeing you at our January Branch meeting and answering any questions you might have about our Branch's Bylaws.

Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff

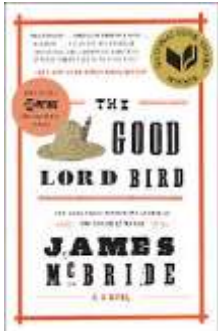
Chairperson, Bylaws Committee

INTEREST GROUPS

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com



Please join Book Club via Zoom on Friday, February 12 at 10:30 for a discussion of "The Good Lord Bird" by James McBride. (From the bestselling author of The Color of Water and Song Yet Sung comes the story of a young boy born a slave who joins John Brown's antislavery crusade—and who must pass as a girl to survive.) Terry Dailey will be our leader. Hope to see many of you on Zoom. Send an email to me if you are interested in joining.

Film Group

Terry Dailey

johnd4photo@aol.com



We continue to be safe rather than sorry by viewing films and series on our own with suggestions made by members. Of note, though, Linda Harmon was kind enough to share the information for a free virtual screening of the short (40 minute) documentary **Like A Woman** followed by a short discussion with the Director, Gail Mooney. It will be online on January 11, 2021 Time: 7:00PM – 8:30PM. The film is about women who are breaking barriers in male dominated professions. Registration is required and must be received by January 8, 2021. You may register using the link: <https://volunteersignup.org/PM3YY>. There is also a trailer at <https://kellymooney.com/like-a-woman-multimedia-project>.

Please continue to wear masks and social distance so that, hopefully, we can see each other at the theater sometime in 2021.

For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

We will meet on ZOOM on Thursday, January 14th at 1pm.

I suggest that our group prepare with watching a couple of short videos on YouTube:



The enduring Problem of School Segregation (10 minutes) [Link](#)

The Civil Rights Project: New York State's Extreme School Segregation (10 minutes). [Link](#)



If you are not already on my mailing list, let me know if you want to attend and I will send you the Zoom link.

Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

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Our first client passed all of her required Praxis tests AND got a full-time teaching job where she had been part-time! We are now tutoring 2 more clients and about to start a third. In January, the team is going to work on a more formal package that can be handed to prospective tutors to guide them as they start up. We are excited to see what 2021 brings to this newly formed AAUW initiative! If you are interested in learning more, please contact me.



Our surprisingly interesting conversations on Mondays from 4:00 to 6:00 are helping us maintain our fluency and increase our vocabulary. It is possible that our technical member will be out of town for a well-deserved rest for much of January. If you'd like to join us, don't hesitate to call me (609) 653-6177. I'll always know if we are meeting or not.

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

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



The Travel Group will meet on Tuesday, January 19, at 1pm on ZOOM. The topic is THE JOY OF THE NEAR AND UNEXPECTED. Kit Lok and her husband decided since they can't travel overseas they would take what trips are available.

Join them as they explore the Delaware and Raritan Canal on three separate day trips in the fall. They discovered scenic trails, gorgeous fall colors, interesting history and engineering feats, charming historic towns and a women's heritage trail. The 70 mile canal traverses Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania . Kit will share a couple of her sketches and paintings inspired by the canal.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays	4 pm	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
Jan 11 Monday	7:00 pm	Like a Woman Documentary and discussion.	Jacalyn Shelley-Tasoff
Jan 13 Wednesday	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting Agenda: By-laws review and Branch vote	Arlene Groch
Jan 14 Thursday	1:00 pm	For A More Equal Society School Segregation Issues	Carolyn Bassett
Jan 19 Tuesday	1:00 pm	Travel Group Kit Lok on the Delaware and Raritan Canal	Carolyn Bassett
Feb 12 Friday	10:30 am	Book Discussion Good Lord Bird	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Feb 17 Wednesday	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting So You Think It Can't Happen To Your Family: The Drug Crisis in Atlantic County	Arlene Groch
Mar 17 Wednesday	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting Racism in America: The Native American Experience	Arlene Groch
Apr 17 Wednesday	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting Climate Change in NJ and What We're Doing About It	Arlene Groch