



Atlantic County (NJ) Branch

# THE NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Vol. 121 no. 02

**PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS**

## **TUTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY: SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS!**



### **President's Message**

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

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Dear Friends,

As I'm writing this message I'm looking at the above photograph of Virginia Rettig, Community Partnerships Board Officer, Quiana Lewis, one of the first clients to successfully pass a PRAXIS teacher certification test, and Rona Kaplan one of our first volunteers for Tutors for Educational Equity.

Do you remember the times in your life when you shared such joy with someone you mentored, someone you taught, or befriended?

I'm asking you to consider being a tutor to a non-traditional student of any ethnicity and gender that the Atlantic County Collaborative for Education Equity will pair up with you.

- Why is it necessary? To get more teachers into Atlantic County classrooms so that every student has the opportunity to be taught by a teacher who looks like them.
- What are the barriers? As Quiana shared with us during our September Program, she spent over \$800 in order to pass these tests. (There are three core tests and specific subject matter tests.) We have the capacity to help!



- Are you qualified? Most likely! Virginia has spent the past year getting ready for you! You can “shadow” a tutor to see how the sessions run, and we’re hosting a workshop this fall to get you ready to tutor. Your time commitment would be about 8 hours per test on a schedule you and your client determine. Typically, our tutors have spent about one hour per session. You mentor one client on the subjects you want to tutor.
- Interested? Contact Virginia at [rettigva@yahoo.com](mailto:rettigva@yahoo.com).

Here are other ways you can support the Tutors Program:

- Make a \$5 donation for our Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends fundraiser to purchase books for our AAUW tutors. See Kathy Zeigenfus’ article.
- Did you notice the amount of money Quiana spent to take the PRAXIS tests? [The Atlantic County Collaborative for Educational Equity](#) raises funds to help clients pay for the tests. When you’re on their website, read about the Power of Community and know that our Branch remains dedicated to promoting educational equity in partnership with all members of our community.



**Our Branch strives to bring you joy in other ways as well. You can join one of our six Interest Groups, participate in one of our committees, or lend a hand in support of our summer Tech Trek (STEM) Camp.**

**We can do this together!**

## **Membership Vice President**

Kristina Baker

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As Jackie mentions above, our Interest Groups have given members the joy of comradery. Over the past month, in talking to members, I became aware that some would like to broaden our interest groups. Here are their suggestions:

- Add two new book groups:
  - The first would read historical novels (non-fiction and fiction based on real events)
  - The second would read a mystery book each month
- Local Exploration Group which would also meet once a month.
  - Areas to explore would be: gardens, businesses, points of interest in South Jersey. A new adventure each month!

If you are interested in any of these groups let me know - which group, day of the week that is best for you and if you prefer a morning or afternoon time along with zoom or in person gathering. I will see what I can match up and let respondents know about the possibilities of starting these new groups.

Also, if you have an idea for an interest group, let me know.

## **Program Vice President**

Tula Christopoulos

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**Did you know in a survey taken in 2019, 34% of AAUW member respondents said they were interested in arts initiatives and 37% indicated an interest in partnering with local charities?**

On October 20th, we will feature the [Mudgirls Studio](#) which helps homeless women in Atlantic City. They learn how to make extraordinary functional and esthetic ceramic objects while also learning how to sell them. Director Dorrie Papademetriou will be taking Q&A. [Click here to see their ceramic creations.](#)

The Program Committee members deserve accolades for the great job accomplished for the September meeting whose theme “You’ve Got a Friend” lived up to its name! It was rewarding to get so much positive feedback. There was a good balance between entertainment value with Mary Lou Breidenstine’s



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baby picture contest and learning with Virginia Rettig's interesting presentation on the "Tutors for Educational Equity" project.

The Program Committee will finalize the 2022 program schedule shortly. If you have any program ideas, please let me know now. Until further notice, we will continue using the ZOOM format.

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## Fundraiser Officer

Kathy Zeigenfus

kzeigenfus@aol.com



Make a donation to support our volunteer Tutors for Educational Equity with your \$5 (or more!) donation. You'll receive one (or more!) shopping passes for 25% off purchases made all day Wednesday, October 20th.

Think about buying more passes to give to family and friends and anyone such as hairdressers who has helped you during this year.

**SAVE THE DATE! For our ONE fundraising event of the year!** Join us to celebrate "**All the Good We Do!**" Wednesday, November 17th at 7 pm. Learn how your generous donations funded scholarships and Tech Trek campers during 2021. Look for your invitation in the mail to our "Second Annual No Calorie Luncheon" when we'll watch videos from pre-COVID Tech Trek Camps and hear testimonials from scholarship award recipients. Don't miss it! Thank you again for your generosity and support of these two major AAUW philanthropic efforts.

Boscov's Shopping Pass benefitting  
**Tutors for Educational Equity**  
Make your check payable to AAUW  
and mail to me at this address. You'll  
receive your passes in the mail.

Kathy Zeigenfus  
127 Garnett Lane  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

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## STEM

Gail Davis

ghdath@comcast.net

No news on the future plans for camps in this month's report as we have yet to hear from National AAUW. We do not sign a memorandum of understanding with them until November. We continue to hope we are able to have an in person camp next summer as Virtual this year was an enormous amount of hard work by our volunteers. I hope you'll join me for our November fundraiser via ZOOM to learn more about our efforts to encourage teenage girls to study STEM subjects.



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## Scholarships

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

The scholarship committee has received recommendations from ACCC and essays from applicants for the Dr. Jo Frances Stow Memorial Scholarship. The committee will be choosing the recipient of the \$5,000 scholarship this week.

Meet three of our scholarship recipients!



Kaylee Heslin



Maha Malik



Shania Buster

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Learn more about Kaylee, Maha, and Shania at our November Fundraiser. Or, read their letters I posted on our Facebook Group page. The committee will be following up with past recipients and will share their stories in future newsletters and on Facebook. Not on Facebook? See my “how to join us” below.

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## Facebook

Karen Poorman

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New to Facebook? Here are some tips:

When you join Facebook, make sure that you go to the “settings” to determine who can see your posts and find information on you. Some of you may want your page to be seen by everyone. If your settings are public, only post what you would want to see on the front page of the newspaper. If you set your settings to “only Friends on Facebook” can see your posts and “only Friends can see your Friends,” then it is difficult for anyone to clone (copy and create another account) and send to your Friends. If you are cloned, report the cloned account so that Facebook removes it. Otherwise, it will continue to exist as a separate page. Changing your password does not prevent the cloned account from continuing.

New members should “like” the open page (AAUW Atlantic County Branch) and request to join the closed group (AAUW Atlantic Members).

The group is meant to be a social instrument where all members of the group contribute. It is a discussion group where everyone posts an opinion on and interacts as though they are sitting around a table sharing opinions, books to read, pictures of pets and kids. Don’t be shy about posting!

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## Items of Interest



Our thanks to Carol Zerbe for showing us how she created her AAUW award winning masterpiece below during our August 18th program. Did you know you can view her art at the [Fine Arts League of Ocean City](#) website?

You can always call her and make an appointment to visit her studio. Look up her contact information in the Member Directory.

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## Early Voting and Mail-in-Ballot Info

Evelynn S. Caterson

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Election Season is here.

- Last day to register to vote is Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>
- Mail-in-Ballots (MIB) have been mailed from the Board of Elections. If you want an MIB, but have not received it, call the Atlantic County Clerk at 609-909-5842

Completing your Mail-in-Ballot



1. Remove all the materials that came with the ballot and review to see what you have.



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2. Complete the Ballot – BOTH sides and follow all these instructions:

### **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

#### **Please read the following before marking your ballot:**

1. To vote for any person whose name is printed on this ballot **use only an ink pen (black or blue)** and fill in the oval  to the right of the candidate's name, not in excess of the number to be elected to the office.
2. To vote for any person whose name is not printed on this ballot, write the name in the **PERSONAL CHOICE COLUMN**, and fill in that oval to the right of name. Do not vote for more candidates than are to be elected.
3. To vote for the Public Questions that are printed on this ballot **use only an ink pen (black or blue)** and fill in the oval  to the right of the word "YES" or "NO".
4. If you tear, deface or incorrectly mark this ballot, return it to the Atlantic County Clerk's Election Office and obtain a new ballot.

3. Put the completed ballot in the smaller envelope.
4. Seal the envelope.
5. DO NOT remove the certification flap which is attached to this envelope.
6. Complete the Certification, being sure to sign the Certification.
7. Put the smaller envelope in the larger mailing envelope and seal it.
8. Submit your ballot:

Regular Mail

[Drop boxes](#)

Deliver personally to Board of Elections at 5903 Main Street in Mays Landing, NJ

You CANNOT submit your ballot at any early election polling location nor your regular polling place as you could last year.

If you were mailed a MIB this year, and you go to the early voting site or your regular polling place, your vote must be provisional, even if you did not use the MIB.

If you no longer want to receive MIBs, you must opt out in writing on a [form](#) found on the Atlantic County Clerk's [website](#).

If you received a MIB for someone who no longer resides in your home, PLEASE notify the Superintendent of Elections at 609-645-5880 so that the State Voter Registration System can be updated.

#### Early Voting Information

- Early voting is open EVERY DAY, Saturday October 23 through Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup>; 10 am to 8 pm, except Sundays which close at 6pm.
- Six Early Voting Site:
  - ATLANTIC CITY: Atlantic City Free Library, One North Tennessee Avenue, Atl City
  - BUENA VISTA TWP: Martin Luther King Bldg, 661 Jackson Road, Newtonville
  - HAMILTON TWP: Mays Landing Library, 40 Farragut Avenue, Mays Landing
  - GALLOWAY TWP: Galloway Library, 306 E. Jimmie Leeds Road, Galloway
  - HAMMONTON: Hamilton Family Success Center, 310 Bellevue Avenue, Hammonton
  - NORTHFIELD: Shoreview Building, 101 Shore Road, Northfield
- You can go to any site to vote.
- There are new voting machines and new e-poll books. The new e-poll book will be used at the regular polling places on Election Day as well.

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## Election Day

- Your polling place is listed on your Sample Ballot.
- Regular polling hours are 6 am to 8 pm.

If you have any questions, email Lynn at [jecaterson@verizon.net](mailto:jecaterson@verizon.net).

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## How to Use Instagram

Janet Yunghans

tuckahoe1@comcast.net

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### Why use Instagram?



Perhaps you'd like to communicate more with the young people in your life. Or, you'd like to share "All the Good We Do!" – upcoming programs, new initiatives, invite women outside AAUW to join one of our Interest Groups – with a younger cadre of women in our community.

Instagram is a social media program that utilizes photos and video sharing via its mobile app. You can take, edit and publish visual content for your followers to interact through likes, comments and sharing.

The Instagram account name for AAUW- Atlantic County is AAUW\_ac. Once you have downloaded the Instagram app, you can search for our account and follow us. Read on to find out how to easily do this!

Instagram is used by over 1 billion users around the world. It is primarily used on a smartphone or tablet device. To sign up for Instagram, you need to download the Instagram app on your phone and click "sign up". You can go through your Facebook account (Instagram is owned by Facebook) or create your own username and password. Once you have done so, you may wish to build a profile which includes a bio and links to a website. Once you have filled in your profile info, click "done".

You can adjust your notifications to receive the information you want. For beginners, it is recommended to accept notifications from "everyone", which can include comments, people you follow, likes, etc. You can always adjust this later.

When you post an image to Instagram, you can set it to share with other social media accounts including Facebook and Twitter.

Instagram is an entirely visual platform. Unlike Facebook, which relies on both text and pictures, or Twitter, which relies on text alone, Instagram's sole purpose is to enable users to share images or videos with their audience.

Unlike Facebook, it is typical to post only one or two photos to your account no more than once a day.

To post an image or video, you need to click at the + sign at the bottom of your Instagram screen. At that point you can select a photo from your photo library or take a photo or video with your smartphone. You are then given an opportunity to edit your photo with filters or brightness adjustments before adding a brief caption.

It is also possible to upload an image or video to "stories", which (like SnapChat), allows your upload to disappear after 24 hours.

Users of Instagram often use hashtags in their comment section. This allows others to follow you easily who may share similar interests. Using hashtags is essential for



increasing your audience and generates better engagement in your post. It is best to use sites like Hashtagify or tagsfinder.com. You don't want to create a new hashtag. You'll want to use one that has lots of followers already.



It is very easy to find and follow users. Using the search feature, you can find celebrities, friends and brands. You can also search for "tags" or "places". Once you've accessed someone's account, just click on the blue

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“follow” button to follow them. If their account is private, you may need to wait for them to accept you first.

This is a very basic introduction to using Instagram. Although there are plenty of resources on the Internet, I find it easiest to ask a friend (often the younger the better) who uses it often.

If you take a photo or short video that you would like to share with our Atlantic County branch of AAUW, please email me at tuckahoe1@comcast.net. If you provide me with a brief description of the photo, I will be happy to post it to our Instagram account. In the meantime, please follow us on Instagram at AAUW\_ac.

Hope to see you on social media sometime soon!

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## INTEREST GROUPS

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### Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com

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Book club will be held on Friday, October 15, at 10:30. The meeting will be held on the patio of the home of Mary Lou Breidenstine. Carolyn Bassett will lead the discussion of "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins. This book is the gripping story of the journey of a mother and her son as they execute their escape from the drug wars in progress in Acapulco. It is sure to provoke a lot of discussion.



The next book is "Klara and the Sun" by Kazuo Ishiguro, date and location (zoom or not) TBA.

We will plan for the coming year as much as possible at the October 15 meeting. Please bring your suggestions. We need about six titles. It is always good to have a variety of genres. We have not read a play or a biography in a while. See you then. New people always welcome.

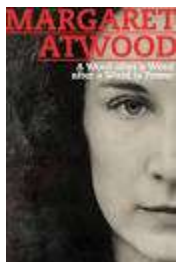
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### Film Group

Terry Dailey

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October and November will be the last meetings of the movie group. Due to low attendance (several members moved away) and legal/licensing issues, we are disbanding. Nonetheless, on October 13, at 10 AM at the Northfield Library we will view the documentary *Margaret Atwood: A Word After a Word After a Word is Power*. “The film explores Atwood's "backstory," her early days in the Canadian wilderness and as a poet. Atwood's novels are explored, including her latest, *The Testaments*, the highly anticipated sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*. Personal stories are shared by friends, family and, of course, directly by Atwood herself.”

We will stay to discuss the movie afterwards even though food can not be brought. Often members choose to go together for lunch afterwards for a social outing.

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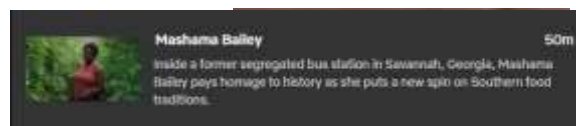
## For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

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We will meet by ZOOM on October 14 at 1pm. Please watch “The Chef’s Table” on Netflix, the episode with Mashama Bailey, a black woman who helms a high-end restaurant in Savannah in an old (segregated) Greyhound bus station. For a change, this is a “feel good” topic.



Also, Jane Pearlman who has recently joined us found a good explanation of how Critical Race Theory was developed. Read the article:

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/09/20/the-man-behind-critical-race-theory>

Please let Carolyn know via email if you plan to come to our meeting on October 14.



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## Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com

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Siempre  
Aprendie

Our group has become comfortable with Zoom meetings that have also allowed us to include members and guests from afar, even Central America and Brazil! If you would like to join us for lively conversations on Monday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00, please contact me by phone (609)653-6177

Always  
Learning

or by e-mail. All are welcome!

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## Ethnic Cuisines

Ann-Marie Guevara

amguevara@comcast.net

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As of publication, the next ethnic cuisine outing has yet to be scheduled. If you are interested in joining in the fun, please send an email to me.

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## Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

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The Travel Group is a venue for members to share travel experiences and trips they have had. Usually the presentation is by Power Point, although some presenters have chosen to simply speak, perhaps using maps or artifacts to illustrate their talk. Last year all presentations were made using ZOOM. Before that we usually gathered in one of the local libraries and the presentation ended with light refreshments evoking the country visited. The programs last year included a bike trip through Germany, a cruise around Russia, a visit to the Delaware and Raritan Canal suitable for day trippers, a program on small cemeteries of NJ, and Antarctica. I am always looking for volunteers to share their travels with the group. If you want to be on the email list, let me know.



The Travel Group will meet via ZOOM on October 6 at 1 pm. Linda Karp will present “Travels to Asia.” Asia has enchanted and bewildered visitors for ages. The continent's combination of energetic cities, traditional architecture and exotic landscapes will overwhelm and delight your senses. While some Asian countries have many similarities, each has its own unique culture and charm! Join us as we visit: Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Let me know if you plan to attend.

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## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays	4 pm Zoom	<b>Conversational Spanish</b>	Jeanette Flax
Oct 6 Wednesday	1 pm Zoom	<b>Travel Group</b> Travels to Asia	Carolyn Bassett
Oct 13 Wednesday	10:00 am Northfield Library	<b>Film Group</b> <i>Margaret Atwood: A Word After a Word After a Word is Power</i>	Terry Dailey
Oct 14 Thursday	1 pm Zoom	<b>For A More Equal Society</b>	Carolyn Bassett
Oct 15 Friday	10:30 am Mary Lou Breidenstine's home	<b>Book Club</b> American Dirt	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Oct 20 Wednesday	All Day Boscov's	<b>Boscov's Shopping Fundraiser</b>	Kathy Zeigenfus
Oct 20 Wednesday	7:00 pm Zoom	<b>Branch Program and Meeting</b> Mud Girls	Tula Christopoulos
Oct 27 Wednesday	7:00 pm Zoom	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Jackie Shelley-Tasoff
Nov 17 Wednesday	7:00 pm Zoom	<b>Branch Program and Meeting</b> All the Good We Do!	Tula Christopoulos