



Atlantic County (NJ) Branch

THE NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Vol. 121 no. 03

PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS

"ALL THE GOOD WE DO!"



Jill Slotoroff, Ann Marchesani, Anne Carson, Kathy Zeigenfus, Carol Zerbe

President's Message

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

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Dear Friends,

It's November, a time to give thanks to all of you who have given generously in so many ways to our Branch. And that's why the Fundraising Committee, chaired by Kathy Zeigenfus, and I hope you'll attend our "All the Good We Do" fundraising event via Zoom on Wednesday, November 17th at 7 pm.

Come and listen to testimonials from former Tech Trek campers and current scholarship recipients who've benefited from your contributions. We'll also hear from Jean McAllister, Chief of Staff Officer and Chief Advancement Officer, from Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC.)

Feel free to invite family and friends just like you'd do if we had an in-person fundraiser get together. Think of it as our "Second Annual No calorie Luncheon."

Thank you to Jill, Ann, Anne, Kathy and Carol for all your work to create an engaging letter and organizing this important annual event.



Karen Poorman, Joan Vicari, Virginia Rettig, Stella Hordes, Lois Fried, Connie Smedley

Over decades our Branch has awarded scholarships to students in the Southern New Jersey area. During 2021, the following scholarships were awarded:

- \$1,000 to a part-time sophomore woman selected by ACCC.
- \$2,000 to a full-time student also selected by ACCC.
- \$5,000, in honor of Dr. Jo Frances Stow (whose bequest funded this award) to a second year ACCC woman, resident of Atlantic Country and matriculating in a health care field. Three candidates were identified by ACCC. They each wrote essays that were submitted anonymously to the Scholarship Committee for selection.
- \$3,000 to a Stockton student with a minor in Women’s Gender and Sexuality as chosen by the Stockton Foundation.

Thank you to Karen, Joan, Virginia, Stella and Lois for determining the criteria for each scholarship award this year.

One more Thank You!

To all of you who purchased Boscov’s “Friends Helping Friends” shopping coupons or made donations to fund the purchase of materials for our Tutors for Education Equity Program. We raised \$430 exceeding our goal of \$300 to purchase books for our volunteer tutors. The remaining \$130 will fund more supplies for this important program as the need arises in the future.

May you and your family have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Membership Vice President

Kristina Baker

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I heard your suggestions for new Interest Groups!



For those of you interested in a **Mystery Book Group**, I’ll host a meeting on **Saturday, November 13th at 1:30 pm**. Contact me for details.

Join me for our first **Local Exploration** trip to the Atlantic County Utilities Authority and celebrate National Toilet Day on **November 19th at 1:30 pm**. We’ll learn how ACUA treats millions of gallons of wastewater using renewable energy and get a close up look at the 5 wind turbines and 2700 solar panels onsite to generate electricity.



We can meet at ACUA’s [Wastewater Treatment Facility](#), located at 1801 Absecon Blvd. Atlantic City. Please check the link for text directions because GPS directions sometimes get mixed up in this area. The parking area is on the left side before the main entrance gate. We will meet at the front kiosk that has a small picnic table and informational sign. I’ll be there in my aqua Prius.



The members who suggested forming a non-fiction book club have decided to join the Book Group Mary Lou Breidenstine hosts monthly. Please see her article for details.



The October meeting was yet another success story for our Branch: Thanks to Virginia Rettig and Carol Zerbe, about 40 Branch members, family and friends gained a deeper understanding of how MudGirls Studios of Atlantic City, New Jersey is clearly and constructively transforming the lives of several local homeless women. Founder, Dorrie Papademetriou, did a fine job of sharing its beginnings, growth and future plans. The organization's art and tileworks were featured and a question and answer session ensued.

The program was recorded. If you missed it and would like to view it, let me know. If you'd like to volunteer at MudGirls Studios, go to the website at www.mudgirlsstudios.org. Click on MORE, then CONTACT and send Dorrie a message. We will soon have information on the December 4th MudGirls event at Reed's Farm in EHT.

The Program Committee is currently busy finalizing the 2022 Branch meeting programs. Stay tuned!

Diversity Officer

Sharone Brown-Jackson

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To Be Or Not To Be Included?

Do you have the courage to be in the pause between what is "no longer" and what is "not yet"? (Octavia Raheem)

We speak of diversity when we refer to our characteristics and all the dimensions that make us unique. Yet we also reflect on inclusion when we refer to behaviors and actions that may change our culture.

When Virginia Rettig presented her Educational Equity Project to our AAUW chapter, it resonated with Rosalind Norrell-Nance who in turn communicated with her African-American Educators' organization – the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa / Delta Lambda Chapter. Ms. Rettig was invited to attend their monthly meeting on Saturday, October 2, 2021 and present her video. It was duly noted that a request for volunteer tutors was made and the Delta Lambda Chapter will respond in kind after their next meeting in November. Thank you for the opportunity to collaborate!

Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

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After last month's great kick-off meeting for our tutoring program, I presented to the National Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. sorority, and much interest was generated. We are about to set up the workshops for tutors (likely two 2-hour events) so if you know of anyone who would like to know more about our program, even if they are not ready to commit, please have them contact me via email.

**STEM**

Gail Davis

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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.



The Facebook PAGE is “AAUW Atlantic County Branch.” Anyone can see the PAGE. You should “like” the page to receive notification when something is posted. The Facebook GROUP is “AAUW Atlantic Members.” You must find the group, request to join and be invited. The groups is only open and visible to members and any member can post on the group page. We currently have 59 members who are active in the group. There are new posts all of the time, so it is an ongoing communication among members.



It is not a newspaper to be read. It is interactive social media. Think of the group as friends sitting around a table having a discussion. Post pictures of your interest group, your garden, your musings for discussion, a favorite book, movie or TV show you just watched or anything that you would like to discuss. Go to the group page to look for links to meetings

Posts on the group cannot be shared because the group is private.....but there are ways to copy and paste or drag to share, so don't post anything anywhere on social media that you would not say in public. “Like” posts that you see on Facebook and in the group and post occasionally both on your own page and in the group so that your account looks active. Inactive accounts are the most often cloned (copied).

An easy way to post pictures to the group is to drag the picture to your desktop. Go to the group and you will see “What’s on your mind?” Type what you want to say. Under that will be the option for “Photo/video.” Click on that. Your desktop should come up and you can choose your pictures. You can also post directly to your page on Facebook from your phone and then share from your page to the group or even post directly to the group from your phone.

Items of Interest



Membership benefits: Did you know you are entitled to a few “perks” as an AAUW member? In addition to the fanatastic benefit of meeting other interesting women in our area, you get some discounts through National. To see the whole list, go [here](#).

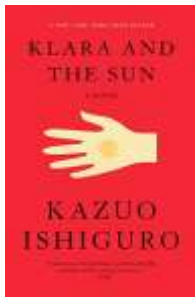
There are travel opportunities (hotels, tours, cruises, vacations), insurance savings (auto, long term care and pets, too!), shipping and mailing savings, to name a few. Take advantage of them today!

INTEREST GROUPS

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

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The next book group will be a discussion of "Klara and the Sun" by Kazuo Ishiguro, led by Gail Vreeland. The meeting is planned for Friday, Dec. 10 and is tentatively scheduled for the Linwood Library. The room is quite spacious and several events have been held there recently with no ill effects as far as I know. Some participants have told me that they will not attend in-door meetings, while others will not participate in Zoom meetings. I am trying to maintain a balance. I have not yet set dates for the other meetings, although a few of them will definitely be on Zoom.



Thanks so much to Carolyn for leading the group in the discussion of "American Dirt" in October. And thanks to all of the participants. It was great to see our "regulars" and some new faces. Lots of fun to chat over lunch.

Please contact me for the schedule of books if you are interested in joining us.

Film Group

Terry Dailey

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The final meeting of the Movie Group will be on November 10 at 10AM at the Northfield Library. Masks are required for the unvaccinated. Food is not permitted, but we stay and discuss the film afterwards. We will be screening a taping of a live performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon of The Taming of the Shrew. This 1590s England is a matriarchy and gender roles are turned on their head as Baptista Minolta seeks to marry off her two sons. October's selection, the Margaret Atwood documentary was excellent. She is more fascinating than I'd even imagined and led an interesting childhood. You may borrow the DVD from the Northfield Library.

For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

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We will meet via Zoom on Thursday, November 4 at 1pm. We will continue our discussion of "reverse migration" with the Philadelphia Inquirer article by Mensah M. Dean. Find the article [here](#).

We also are listening to Charles Blow, NY Times reporter on pbs.org. Find the link [here](#). "After living in NY for 25 years, author Charles Blow

moved to Atlanta. In his new book, "The Devil You Know: A Black Power Manifesto," he proposes that Black Americans in the north do the same and return to the South — the region fled by their ancestors — with the intention of establishing political power in key cities. Blow joins Hari Sreenivasan to



Charles Blow: Why Black Americans Should Migrate Back South

make his case for a reverse Great Migration.”



Also read Black Education before Brown By JoAnn Greco from the Penn Gazette, February 19, 2021 to explore the Rosenwald Schools further. Find the article [here](#).

Let Carolyn know if you plan to attend.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

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Siempre
Aprendiendo

For now, the Spanish group has decided to continue meeting via Zoom. It seems to work well for us, since we live in several different towns, states, and even countries. Should you like to join in our conversations, please let me know so we can send you a link to the Zoom!

Always
Learning

Ethnic Cuisines

Ann-Marie Guevara

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Time to start thinking about our next Ethnic Lunch! We've decided to go to Mambo Cafe, 226 S. Main St., Pleasantville. This place features Columbian and Mexican food, and Gretchen recently sampled several of the dishes and says they were excellent. So here's our next gathering: Mambo Cafe, 12:00 noon, Thursday, Nov. 11. Here's a link to the [menu](#).

Please RSVP to Gretchen (gretchenb66@gmail.com) or me no later than Tuesday, Nov. 9. Hope to see you all there!

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

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The Travel Group will not meet in November, but mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 8 at 1pm when Mary and Phil Ingram will present STANDING STONES PART II. Mary and Phil gave us a fascinating introduction to the Standing Stones (like Stonehenge) back when we were still meeting in person at the Northfield Library. Now they have made another trip, once again in the company of archeologists who have investigated the history of the stones - not that they have all the answers, but even the speculations are interesting. This trip started in the Orkney Islands of Scotland, visited other sites in Scotland and England, and ended again at Stonehenge. I hope you can join us, and let Carolyn know if you are going to.

I am really looking for people who have made trips that they are willing to share with the group. You remember that last year Kit Lok and her husband Mike presented a program on a series of day trips they made to the D&R canal. And, Karen Weis and I gave a presentation on small New Jersey cemeteries. So, you don't have to have traveled overseas. If you have an interest area that you could explore: birding, light-houses, gardens.... Think about it and let me know.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays	4 pm Zoom	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
Nov 4 Thursday	1:00 pm Zoom	For A More Equal Society	Carolyn Bassett
Nov 10 Wednesday	10:00 am Northfield Library	Movie Group The Taming of the Shrew	Terry Dailey
Nov 11 Thursday	Noon Mambo Café	Ethnic Cuisines	Ann-Marie Guevara
Nov 13 Saturday	1:30 pm TBD	*New Group* Mystery Book Group	Kristina Baker
Nov 17 Wednesday	7:00 pm Zoom	Branch Program and Meeting All the Good We Do!	Kathy Zeigenfus and Karen Poorman
Nov 19 Friday	1:30 On Location	*New Group* Local Exploration Atlantic County Utilities Authority	Kristina Baker
Dec 8 Wednesday	1:00 pm Zoom	Travel Group	Carolyn Bassett
Dec 10 Friday	10:30 am TBD	Book Group Klara and the Sun	MaryLou Breidenstine