



Atlantic County (NJ) Branch

THE NEWSLETTER

February 2022

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PROMOTING WOMEN’S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS

DREAMS AND TEAMS WORK TOGETHER!



President’s Message

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

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Dear Friends,

Happy February! Because it’s almost spring!

During the cold months of winter, the Membership Committee – Kris Baker, Jenine Brown, Sharone Brown-Jackson, Anne Carson, Shelley Cohen, and Linda Karp - have been hard at work developing member recruitment plans. More about this at the end of my message.

The Committee thought it would be a good idea to learn about the experiences of our Lifetime Members to understand what led them to join AAUW and what has kept them engaged over the years.

Gail Zona cites the opportunity to participate in leadership positions. “I started out with environmental issues, followed by Program VP, Treasurer, and “Clean Up” efforts in our area under the State AAUW programs. Our branch participated in many local efforts that brought recognition to our branch.”

As part of AAUW’s Friendly Visitors Program, Lynn Caterson “volunteered as a teacher/visitor to women in the County Jail. Because of this work, Lynn was appointed to the Atlantic County Criminal Justice Advisory Board. The whole reason I went to Law School is because of AAUW. Although our community has changed and grown, I continue to support the mission of AAUW.”

When Carolyn Bassett “was a young mother in Cherry Hill, I searched out an AAUW Branch and joined. I made a lot of friends there. When we moved to Atlantic County I did the same thing. Our Branch had many worthwhile, interesting, and fun activities, and I’ve made many friends. I like the mixture of “fun” interest groups and social activist actions.”

Like Carolyn, Virginia Gormley's AAUW membership helped her remain connected to a community of women in the Valley Forge area, Princeton and back here at the Jersey Shore. She is interested in "various program topics, occasional projects, book group or travel group as well. I am very pleased to be part of a group who promotes educational equality and opportunity for women. The fact that our group has now gotten involved with girls and STEM makes it all the more interesting to me."



I learned about AAUW from Claire Moyer one of our past presidents, who asked me to attend our Fundraising Luncheon in 2015. That's us, the members who wore "vintage clothes" to our 100th anniversary luncheon that I chaired in 2017.

Here are the Membership Committee's plans to get us all involved inviting friends, family, co-workers, and newcomers to our area.

- Won't you join our 2022 Member Challenge to invite someone you know to attend one of our programs or events? Share an interest you have in one of our six Interest Groups? Welcome someone who would like to volunteer for one of our STEM programs for girls, or tutor a woman who needs a bit of coaching to pass her teacher certification tests?

Just so you know! As part of National AAUW's "Shape the Future Campaign," any qualified person who joins at a program or event will receive **50%** or \$31 off their national dues for their first year of membership.

- If you are a resident of a 55+ community in our area, please contact Shelley Cohen. We have an article that can be placed in your community newsletter.
- During the summer, we plan to share AAUW membership information with local women during the Tech Trek Leadership dinner.
- And in November, we'll have our first "Invite a Friend Raffle" during our Fundraising Luncheon. For each of the non-member friends who attend, one raffle ticket will be submitted in the name of the member who invited them to win a \$100 gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice.
- If you have any additional ideas to increase membership, please don't hesitate to let me know. We welcome new ideas!

In gratitude for your membership in our Branch,

Jackie

Program Vice President

Tula Christopoulos

tegea222@gmail.com

The hard-working members of the Atlantic County branch's Program Committee have once again come up with an exciting, entertaining and educational lineup for Winter/Spring 2022.

For our **February meeting**, Shelley Cohen and Lynn Caterson have been hard at work arranging for a representative from the local Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation to speak on their historical presence in southern NJ. We will learn about their tribal customs, values, and beliefs as well as traditional medicine. Please pencil in Wednesday, February 16th via ZOOM at 7pm and CHECK FOR UPDATES IN CASE OF MEETING DATE CHANGE.



The **March meeting** will reunite our membership for an in-person, fun gathering at the Linwood Library. This meeting will take place on Saturday, March 26th and will include a light lunch and refreshments. In celebration of Women's History Month, Kathy Zeigenfus will lead us in a game of Quizzo with questions based on Women's history. You will need to register for the meeting which is free of charge. Note: Should there still be an issue with the pandemic, we will revert to ZOOM and still play Quizzo. But... you'll have to get your own snacks and beverage!

Virginia Rettig and her staff of scientists will continue the climate change conversation for our **April meeting**. Details to follow. And, finally, for our May meeting we are planning a visit to the Harriet Tubman Museum, followed by lunch and induction of new officers at the Blue Pig at Congress Hall. Specifics are being worked on for BOTH April and May meetings, so stay tuned!

Membership Vice President Kristina Baker kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

There are presently 118 members of the Atlantic County Chapter of AAUW. We have a new member to welcome. She joined in January: Nancy Rubin of Linwood.

Nominating Committee Kristina Baker kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

At our April 2022 Branch Meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees for the 2022-2024 term. All but two officers will be running to continue in their currently held positions. They are:

- Membership VP** - Kris Baker
- Finance Officer** - Lois Fried
- Community Partnerships Officer** - Virginia Rettig
- Treasurer** - Linda Karp
- STEM Officer** - new nominee Theresa Basquez
- Board Secretary** - open

As Board Secretary, you take notes of the 4 to 5 Board Meetings held during our fiscal year and any Executive Committee meetings. Knowledge of Word is required. This is an excellent position to learn more about our organization and to have a voice in determining our future. Approximate time would be no more than 15 hours/year.

Please let me or one of the other members of the Nominating Committee - Gail Davis & Joan Vicari - know if you're interested in being a member of the Executive Team.

Fundraising Officer Kathy Zeigenfus kzeigenfus@aol.com

The Fundraising Committee is proud to announce that your donations to the 2021 "All The Good We Do!" campaign was over \$8,000. We are overwhelmingly appreciative of the support from our members and other people who care about our Scholarship Program and Tech Trek Camp. Close to \$3,000 was raised for Tech Trek and \$5,000 for Scholarships.

Those of you who attended our fundraising program know how effective these programs are in providing our local female students the opportunity to further and enhance their higher educational goals. Again, many thanks!

Scholarship Officer Karen Poorman karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

The scholarship committee will meet to recommend the distribution of the funds. The AAUW Atlantic Board approved the following: \$5,000 from the fundraising campaign and \$3,200 from our trust account held with the Community Foundation of South Jersey for a total of \$8,200.

Finance Officer Lois Fried loissfried@gmail.com

Please see the Board Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2022 for AWCO's accounting of Tech Trek Camp and Scholarship donations. Included with the Board Minutes are statements from the Community Foundation of South Jersey (Trust Fund for Scholarships) and a Budget to Actual Comparison report of our Branch's income and expenses to 12/31/2022. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Facebook

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

Members can post on the closed group site. Post pictures of interest group meetings or other areas that you would like to share. Discussion topics are welcome in the group. Our “page” is open to everyone and can be seen by anybody. The “group” can only be seen by members and you must either be invited or request membership. All AAUW Atlantic and/or AAUW Cape May members may join the group and post.

STEM

Gail Davis

ghdath@icloud.com

Currently AAUW national does not support Tech Trek in-person camps sooooo- tentatively our STEM team plans to offer two alumni camps:

1. For those who were selected in 2020 and had to do virtual camp last summer. And never got to meet in person.
2. A 2-day camp for those 2027-2019 alums.

We know it is tentative as things can change quickly and much is dependent on Stockton University. Hopefully we can pull this off.

I am delighted to announce that Theresa Basquez (who chaired the Cape May County selection of girls) will replace me as of June 1.

Anything we do will require funding so any contributions to AWCO (501 C3) are great fully accepted. Additionally volunteer help from our members will be necessary so we'll be looking for volunteers in many capacities.

Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

rettigva@yahoo.com

In December we held a tutoring workshop to prepare our new tutors. Thank you Ann-Maria Guevara, Lorraine Houghton, and Kathy Zeigenfus for joining on! We bought four math tutoring workbooks to assist math tutors, thanks to the fall fundraiser! As school starts up this semester we expect to get more requests for assistance.

Public Policy

Jenine Brown

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As part of its 2021 Year End Review, our organization’s national website (www.aauw.org) offers the following summary of Public Policy accomplishments:

The AAUW Two Minute Activist program sent over 68,000 letters to elected officials calling for action on AAUW priorities such as paycheck fairness, paid leave, reproductive rights, student loan forgiveness and more. All five of the top bills passed the House of Representatives in 2021. The Equal Pay Every Day roundtable series created conversations and solutions regarding pay equity in the workplace among employees, managers and senior leaders in the New York metropolitan region. Through the Legal Advocacy Fund, we supported five active cases seeking legal relief against pay inequity and other forms of sex discrimination. By selecting candidates on the basis of scholarly excellence, quality and originality of projects designed to help women and girls through service in their communities, or fields of research AAUW has awarded millions in grants and scholarships to 13,000 recipients in 145 countries since 1888. This past November AAUW celebrated its' 140th anniversary. The new CEO, Gloria L. Blackwell has vowed continued commitment to research, action, and advocacy. Source: AAUW.org

**Diversity Officer**

Sharone Brown-Jackson

brownjacksonse@aol.com

“I've always depended on the kindness of strangers...”

As we enter the month of February in the year of 2022, we need to be reminded that diversity and inclusion play an important role in AAUW in these unprecedented times. AAUW has a current Shape the Future Campaign to recruit and retain members by offering a discounted membership fee including a new brochure – Advancing Equity For Women and Girls. Thank you, President Jacalyn Shelley for your encouragement and support!

Have you read Karen Mellinger Poorman's sound bite – *the moving finger writes and having writ, moves on...*(Omar Khayyam)? It is an excellent treatise of the need for senior women to cultivate technology skills or be left in a 1980's time warp!! It was posted recently on our AAUW Atlantic Members Facebook page and it resonated personally with me who is usually forced to embrace technology!!!

And my recommendation for observance of Black History Month is that you make plans to go to the Hard Rock Casino to attend the musical revue of "On Kentucky Avenue" – three (3) shows are scheduled for Friday, February 18, 2022 at 8:00 pm and Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm; this play is based on local Atlantic City history!!!!.

Items of Interest

AAUW National Art Contest

Are you a passionate painter? A skillful sketch artist? Do you have a great eye for photography? If so, AAUW is offering the perfect opportunity for you to show off your artistic talents — by submitting to the annual art contest!



In the art world women are underrepresented and undervalued. Only a third of artists represented by commercial galleries are women and women working in arts professions are paid on average 74 cents to every dollar paid to men. This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual art contest — to give women artists the attention they deserve.

Are you an AAUW member with a passion for creating works of art? This year's contest begins on January 6 with entries accepted through **January 31**. Voting opens on **February 2** and will close on **February 16**. The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring. Please consult the contest rules below for helpful tips on ensuring a quality entry. We look forward to seeing your works of art this year! Link: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/art-contest/>

AAUW-AC submissions as of publication include:

- Carol Zerbe, ""Fanciful Floral" and "As We Compromise"
- Arlene Groch, "Friendship" and "Spring Rivers Flow Fast"
- Anne Carson, "Treasured Crystals"

Consider entering your own work and please go online and look for our submissions. The voting window is very short this year, so remember to vote by February 16!

INTEREST GROUPS

Explorer's Interest Group

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

The Explorer's Group is a result of suggestions from members looking to visit unique and interesting places in our local area. There are many things going on in our own backyard! Maybe we are not aware of them or are looking for someone to go with. The group plans to meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 1:30PM. So far, we have visited: ACUA's Wastewater Treatment Facility (wind turbines located on the way into Atlantic City) and the Veteran's Museum in Mays Landing. On Friday January 28, we visited Randall's Seafood in Pleasantville.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday February 25 at 1:30PM.

Days of Olde Antique Center
150 South New York Road (Route 9) Galloway NJ 08205



The owner will give a talk on:

- Business of antiques and art
- The business before and after ebay
- What antiques are in high demand now
- Are antiques making a comeback in 2022

We will have an opportunity to browse after the talk.

Book Group

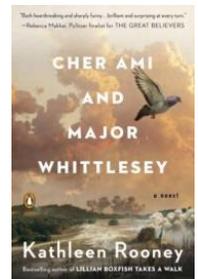
Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com

Happy New Year ladies. The Book Group will begin the new year with a discussion of "Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey" by Kathleen Rooney. Karen Cifrese will lead the Zoom meeting of Feb. 11 at 10:30.

Be sure to google Cher Ami and see her present-day self in the Smithsonian.

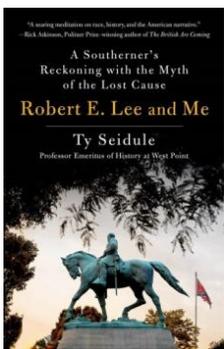
Send me an email if you are interested in joining our discussion.



For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com



We have started reading and discussing "Robert E Lee and Me" by Ty Seidule. He is a professor emeritus of West Point and a retired brigadier general when he retired from the US Army after 36 years of service. The book discusses "the Myth of the Lost Cause" which he, as a Virginian and graduate of Washington and Lee University, was steeped in. We will meet Thursday, February 3, at 1pm on ZOOM. For this meeting we will be discussing Chapters 4 and 5. We can also discuss other issues of interest. Let me know if you plan to come.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com



If you would like to maintain or increase your fluency in Spanish, please consider joining us from 4:00 to 6:00 on Monday afternoons via Zoom. Our conversations are fun, unstructured, and usually quite interesting. Send me a message if you'd like to participate!

Hello, Ethnic Lunchers! First, Happy New Year to everyone. We hope your holidays were serene and joyful. After our enjoyable gathering in December, we took the month of January off. Here are the details for our February luncheon: Thursday, February 10, 2022 at Noon

Carême's Restaurant
 Atlantic Cape Community College
 5100 E. Black Horse Pike, Mays Landing



We'll be ordering off the menu. RSVP to Gretchen (gretchenb66@gmail.com) or me no later than Feb.5. Hope to see you there!

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

We will meet on Wednesday, February 2 at 1pm. The Berkshires - Americas Premier Cultural Resort (or so it is advertised). Mary Lou and Joe Breidenstine visited 29 years ago for the first time and have returned most every year since. They will explain why and give a picture tour of the area for anyone interested. Join in! Please let Carolyn know if you plan to come.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:			
Mondays	4:00 pm Zoom	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
Feb 2 Wednesday	1:00 pm Zoom	Travel Group The Berkshires	Carolyn Bassett
Feb 3 Thursday	1:00 pm Zoom	For a More Equal Society	Carolyn Bassett
Feb 10 Thursday	Noon Mays Landing, NJ	Ethnic Cuisine Lunch Carême's at ACCC	Ann-Maria Guevara
Feb 11 Friday	10:30 am Zoom	Book Group Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Feb 16 Wednesday	7:00 pm Zoom	Branch Program and Meeting Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation	Tula Christopoulos
Feb 25 Friday	1:30 pm On-Site	Explorer's Interest Group Days of Olde Antiques	Kris Baker
Mar 16 Monday	7:00 pm Zoom	Board of Officers Meeting All members welcome to attend	Jackie Shelley-Tasoff