



Atlantic County (NJ) Branch

THE NEWSLETTER

March 2022
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PROMOTING WOMEN’S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS

WOMEN EMPOWERING HISTORY



President’s Message

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

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This month we enjoy a guest message from Jenine Brown, our Public Policy Chair.

History has seen women lead fearlessly, making incredible changes. These women, from all walks of life, have been thinkers, artists, performers, scholars, scientists, naturalists, politicians, mothers, wives, sisters, aunts and soldiers. Often beset by personal hardship, poverty, racism, misogyny, and societal adversity, they gave of themselves with sacrifice, hard work and inspiration paving the way for others in communities, nations, and globally.

“No one changes the world who isn’t obsessed.” – Billie Jean King

Bessie Coleman and Amelia Earhart were pioneers in aviation. Earhart (16th woman to receive a pilot's license) was the first female to make a transatlantic flight which ended with the disappearance of her plane for unknown reasons. Bessie Coleman, a child of Texas sharecroppers, encouraged interest in aviation by speaking at schools and churches and refusing to perform at segregated air shows. Having been rejected in the US, Bessie earned an international pilot's license in France, the first black woman to do so. Bessie died in a crash at age 34. (Did they know that being an aviation pioneer was not easy?)

“Knowing what must be done does away with fear.” – Rosa Parks

Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto are two of the few women to hold a powerful position. Gandhi became India’s third prime minister in 1966. 20 years into this role, she was assassinated in 1984. When Benazir Bhutto’s father’s government in Pakistan was overthrown, she inherited leadership in the government. Educated at Harvard, Radcliffe College, and Oxford University, she became the first woman Prime Minister of a Muslim country in 1988, proclaiming the need for open elections. While addressing a rally in 2007 Bhutto was assassinated by a suicide bomber.

"Drama is very important in life: You have to come on with a bang. You never want to go out with a whimper." – Julia Child

Aretha Franklin and Frida Kahlo were renown artists in music and the visual arts. Born in Memphis, raised in Detroit, Aretha's beginnings were in singing gospel music amidst the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Her signature song "Respect" became a top hit in 1967 with its empowering message for all women. Frida produced groundbreaking art in the form of magical realism. At the age of 18 a bus crash left Kahlo with serious injuries. She began painting while recuperating, but pain from the accident was always a staple of her life. In spite of her tumultuous relationship with husband Diego Rivera, political involvement with the Communist party, and ongoing health crises, Kahlo produced art that is still critically acclaimed. Her self-portrait graced a US stamp in June 2001.

"When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak." – Audre Lorde

Anne Frank's account of her families' maltreatment at the hands of the Nazis was recorded with great detail. Her diary contains narrative and personal insights which displayed maturity beyond her age. Her writing added much to the record of what is known about the time. Malala Yousafzai was raised in Pakistan where the majority of girls aren't allowed to go to school. She publicly spoke out for the right to be educated, then was shot at close range while riding to school. Malala is the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. She continues to advocate for educational access for all.

AAUW members are keenly aware of the weight of women's strength, as well as the power of working together to advance society. Feminine courage and compassion are anchoring forces of our past and present. It is certain to be the same in the future.

Jenine Brown, Public Policy Chair

Program Vice President

Tula Christopoulos

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For our March meeting, we will be celebrating Women's History Month – in person! We look forward to seeing members and guests together for the first time since before the pandemic. Join us for a light lunch at the Linwood Library on SATURDAY, March 26th at NOON, after which Kathy Zeigenfus will guide us in a few rounds of QUIZZO with Women's history-themed trivia questions and prizes for the winners. The meeting is free of charge but we will ask you to RSVP. Watch for our program flyer for more details.

And, stay tuned for our April meeting on ZOOM, when Virginia Rettig and a panel of environmental scientists will share the most up-to-date events and research related to a variety of activities on the changes to New Jersey's coastal communities and habitats, including nuisance flooding and island erosion. There will also be information on the imminent New Jersey bag ban.

Membership Vice President

Kristina Baker

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Welcome our new February member: Diane Falk of Mays Landing.

March is a great month for new members to sign up to join AAUW. The national dues are going up \$3 for the next year, however there is a special program for new members who join in March 2022 because they will be members through next year, to June 2023. The fee will be \$85 but the dues include the 3 1/2 months of 2022 and is good until the end of June 2023. Please see the membership application form link sent in the email along with this newsletter, if you know a friend, relative etc. who would be interested in joining.

Nominating Committee

Kristina Baker

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Our slate of nominees for the 2022-2024 term will be presented at the April 2022 Branch Meeting. 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 – new nominee Joan Leavy

Scholarship Officer

Karen Poorman

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The scholarship committee met on February 23 to make recommendations for scholarship awards. Their proposal for the award of the \$8,200 in scholarship funds will be presented to the AAUW board this month. Scholarship awards will be posted in the Facebook closed group and in the newsletter after approval. AAUW members can be very proud of their continuing support of scholarships for women.

Facebook

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

The closed Facebook group is open to members of AAUW Atlantic. Sixty members of our branch are group members. Discussions, reports and pictures of interest groups, announcements and much more are posted on the AAUW Atlantic members' group. Atlantic County AAUW members may ask to be admitted or can be invited to the group. If you have a problem, message Karen Mellinger Poorman on Facebook messenger. There is also a public page which is named "AAUW Atlantic County Branch." You only need to "like" that page.

STEM

Gail Davis

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Teen Tech – is a one-day camp for 9th & 11th grade girls from schools across southern NJ. We anticipate holding this camp at the Cape May campus of ACCC in late May or early June. More details to come in our April Newsletter!

Tech Trek Camp has morphed, for this year, into 2 STEMINIST camps tentatively scheduled for July 22 to 28. A 3-day camp for the 2020 campers, who never got to meet in person, and for 2017-2019 alumni there will be a 2-day camp. Both will be held at Stockton University.

TeenTech 2022 – will be held Wednesday May 25, 2022 at Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC) Mays Landing Campus. Volunteers are needed to help with as bus greeters, workshop monitors, and public relations. If you are able to volunteer that day, please call or email Linda Harmon 609-204-8596 linda.harmon@gmail.com

Look for our April article for more information about volunteer opportunities for each of these camps.

Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

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We are currently tutoring five people in Reading, Writing and Math topics. One of those clients applied for and received an accommodation to get more time to take the Writing test as English is that person's second language. It is a huge help to have more time.

GOOD NEWS! We RECEIVED a \$750 grant from AAUW-NJ to purchase teaching materials AND to cover the costs for clients to take the tests (each one costs \$90).

We are waiting to hear on a second grant application from OceanFirst so fingers crossed that we get that one!

Let's Not Forget

“The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.” (Ida B. Wells)

Let’s not forget the legacy of Ida B. Wells (1862-1931). Ms. Wells was a journalist, educator and early leader in the civil rights movement. She was also a co-founder of the NAACP.

Ms. Wells led an anti-lynching crusade and also fought for woman suffrage. Ida B. Wells was often seen as too radical in her views by the men spearheading the black civil rights movement along with more traditional women leaders.

Ms. Wells became known for attending the 1913 Women's Suffrage Parade with a delegation of members from Chicago. On the day of the march, she was told to walk at the end of the parade in a “colored delegation.” However, Ms. Wells waited with spectators as the parade was underway and she stepped into the White Delegation linking arms with her White suffragist members for the rest of the parade to demonstrate the universality of women's civil rights.

In 2020, a 1,000 square foot mosaic of Ida B. Wells was installed at Union Station in Washington, DC. This portrait was composed of thousands of historical photos featuring women who fought for the right to vote. I've voted all my life but my 95-year-old African-American Mother was adamant in relaying to me that when our family moved to Atlantic City in 1958, she finally had the opportunity to vote!



Items of Interest

Make Your Vote Count

Lynn Caterson

Our member, Lynn Caterson is providing a series of articles on the voting process for the AAUW New Jersey newsletter. We are reprinting her articles here for your convenience.



The voting process in New Jersey has greatly changed from the voter registering to vote; receiving the Sample Ballot; deciding the candidates for whom to vote; going to the polling place on Election Day and voting by machine.

Today the entire voting process is much more complex and, in order to make a vote count, the voter needs to be fully informed. To assist in this voter education process, AAUW will present a series of articles which will cover topics such as: Voter Registration; Signature Updating; Effect of 2020 Census; Mail-In-Ballots; Early Voting; Provisional Ballots; Timing for Final Election Results. These topics will be addressed by long-time AAUW member, Lynn Caterson who chairs the Atlantic County Board of Elections.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT March 2022

The next state-wide election is the Primary Election on June 7, 2022, and the first step in making your vote count is REGISTERING TO VOTE. The deadline for this registration is May 17, 2022.

Are you registered? Not sure? Go to <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>

Once there click on the box which says “Am I Registered” and you will find out. The site also gives your Voter ID. Perhaps you didn’t know you had one and you may never need to use it, but you can find out what it is.

If you determine that you need to register, the same web site has the boxes that you can use to register, which include registering online and printing out a registration form. The printing option allows you to print the form for your specific County and includes the envelope to be used in order to send the form to your County’s Registrar of Elections. If you are more comfortable going to the web sites of all your County election offices, you can get the Registration Form there. The Registration Form is the same – it is used state-wide – but the mailing in location is different for each County. Additionally, the Motor Vehicle Commission provides the opportunity and the paperwork to register to vote when you are there for a motor vehicle transaction.

You should note that the Registration Form includes more than just voter registration. Item #1 at the top of the form allows you to note an address change, a name change [usually a marriage or divorce occurrence], a signature update, a change in political party and an application to in order for you to Vote by Mail. The signature update is especially important because our signatures change as we age, and you may have had a recent illness resulting in a change in handwriting. This signature update feature allows the State Voter Registration System [SVRS] to see your current signature when it needs to be compared to your signature when you vote.

Item #3 allows for a 17-year-old to register, although he/she will not be eligible to vote until 18 years of age.

Finally, on the form, fill in the required information with respect to anyone who is assisting the voter in completing form, if the voter needs such assistance.

ONLY registered Democrats and Republicans can vote in the Primary Election. New Registrants can make the selection of a political party when registering. If a voter is previously registered, a party change must be submitted by April 13, 2022.

Coming next month, Effect of the 2020 Census and Early Voting.

AAUW National Website “Upgrade”

Good news! AAUW has upgraded their website. Follow this [link](#) to the page. You will have more options to self-service your account information and the ability to view past registrations, purchases and more. See below for additional information and video tutorials.



To access your account, click the “Log In” at the top right corner of the website or visit my.aauw.org. **The first time you log in, you’ll need to reset your password by clicking the “Forgot Password” link.** Once you create a password and log in, you can update your profile by clicking “Edit Profile” in the menu on the left side of the screen. A tutorial of the step-by-step guide on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ounLzYENITo>

Some important items to note:

Your new password must be at least 8 characters long, have a mix of letters and numbers, and cannot contain your username.

To reset your password using the “Forgot Password” link, you will enter your email address on file with AAUW and they will send an email to you. It comes very quickly. If you don’t see it right away, be certain to check “All Mail” or your Spam folders.

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.

February's outing to the Days of Olde Antique Center was a great success.

Our next visit will be on March 25 to the Naval Air Station - Wildwood Aviation Museum located in the Cape May Airport. The address is: 500 Forrestal Road Cape May (located a few miles off Exit 4B of the Garden State Parkway) The museum is about a 30-minute ride from my house in Marmora. It is wheelchair accessible.



The museum is housed inside a World War II Hanger that is registered as a state and national historic place. The building has over 20 historic aircraft and various rare artifacts. The tour guide in his talk will emphasize women in aviation. The cost is \$10.

Please let me know if you plan to attend. I plan to tell the guide how many members will be coming. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com



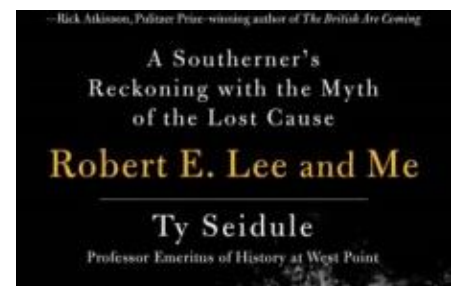
Greetings ladies. Thanks so much to Karen Cifrese for leading a wonderful discussion of Cher Ami. Also thanks to all of you who participated. Very successful meeting. Our next meeting will be on Friday, March 18 at the Linwood Library at 10:30. Of course, if there is another outbreak of Covid we will switch to Zoom. Diana will lead us in a discussion of Hamlet. I can't wait to hear what new perspective she will challenge us on. See all of you then. Send me an email if you are interested in joining our discussion.

For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

We will finish reading "Robert E Lee and Me" (the last 3 chapters) and discussing 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 Friday, March 4 at 1 pm on Zoom. I will send you a link that morning. Let Carolyn know if you plan to come.



We're getting ready for another Foreign Policy Association discussion group of Great Decisions starting in April. We meet once a week for eight weeks to discuss critical issues of events taking place globally. We read a chapter in our Great Decisions book, watch a short video on the subject, then meet on Zoom to discuss the issue.



We have been doing this program for several years. We have tried, but unfortunately not succeeded, to solve the world's problems. (If only the powers that be would listen to us.) If this sounds interesting to you, please look for an email which will be sent out soon.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

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Our group continues to converse Monday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00 via Zoom, which allows members who have moved away from Atlantic County to participate, but we hope to meet occasionally outside as weather improves. If you would like to join us to retain and improve your fluency in Spanish, please contact me. Everyone is welcome!

**Ethnic Cuisines**

Ann-Maria Guevara

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Hello, Ethnic Lunchers! The February lunch at Caramel's was a success with us enjoying the selections and the service of the Academy of Culinary Arts students. Our dining choice for March is not finalized, but the date is! We will be meeting on Thursday March 31...time and location to be determined!

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

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Travel Group will not meet this month. We enjoyed an excellent presentation on the Berkshires last month presented by MaryLou and Joe Breidenstine. Please let Carolyn know if you are interested in joining future discussions or would consider sharing a travel experience of your own.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

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Mondays	4:00 pm Zoom	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
Mar 4 Friday	1:00 pm Zoom	For a More Equal Society	Carolyn Bassett
Mar 16 Monday	7:00 pm Zoom	Board of Officers Meeting All members welcome to attend	Jackie Shelley-Tasoff
Mar 18 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	Book Group Hamlet	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Mar 25 Friday	1:30 pm On-Site	Explorer's Interest Group Naval Air Station - Wildwood Aviation Museum	Kris Baker
Mar 26 Saturday	Noon Linwood Library	Branch Program and Meeting – In Person Women's History Month	Tula Christopoulos
Mar 31 Thursday	TBD	Ethnic Cuisine Lunch TBD	Ann-Maria Guevara
April TBD		Great Decisions	Lynne Walters