

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

**THE UNDAUNTED**



Women Scientists Pearl Kendrick, Loney Clinton Gordon, and Grace Eldering  
(Photo credit: [Smithsonian Magazine](#), March 2022)

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**President's Message**

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

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Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed Jenine Brown's article last month highlighting the work of women from all walks of life. She inspired me to continue the story by sharing with you an article in the March issue of the Smithsonian Magazine titled: The Unsung Heroes Who Ended a Deadly Plague.

This is a fascinating tale with lots of twists and turns about three women scientists, who persevered to develop the pertussis vaccine that led to the near eradication of whooping cough throughout the world.

In the words of Michael Decker, "Kendrick and Eldering. . . figured out how to make it. They engineered a clinical trial using novel techniques (in the 1930s) to prove their point. And in the face of intense criticism from people of high standing, they showed that their results were correct."

But who found the most suitable strain of pertussis from which a vaccine could be made? Loney Clinton Gordon, yet she could not secure a job as a dietician, until Kendrick hired her to look through a microscope at "Millions of plates." She's also responsible for training hospital staffs around the world to identify pathogens.

**This is why our STEM camps are so important.** They provide a supportive environment so that young women can learn about STEM subjects and see women who work in STEM fields. Please review the STEM section of this Newsletter to learn about Teen Tech for 14-year-old girls from South Jersey held at the Mays Landing campus of ACCC on May 25th.

This is also why I'm excited about the Board approving a \$2000 scientific glass blowing scholarship at Salem Community College during our March meeting. Nancy Rubin, a new member, recommended this scholarship after learning about the program from her son who teaches at the college. Nancy also shared with me that at an international glassblowing conference held there last week, our scholarship was one of only six scholarships awarded. For more information: Scientific Glass Technology at Salem Community College ([salemcc.edu](http://salemcc.edu))

A new member, new ideas for promoting education for ourselves and young women.

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Won't you join me in our "Bring a Friend" Challenge? Members who invite a friend who is a potential eligible member to a program will be eligible for an entry in a drawing for an Impressive Woman mug created by [MUDGIRLS STUDIOS](#) . Which Impressive Woman would you like to drink tea or coffee with?

I hope to see you and a friend or family member at our Climate Change program on the 20th.

Jackie

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## Program Vice President

Tula Christopoulos

tegea222@gmail.com

Please join us on Wednesday, April 20th at 7pm on ZOOM for the Annual Meeting with a program on How Climate Change Impacts in NJ and What You Can Do About It.

Member Virginia Rettig will lead a panel of scientists in a conversation on the most up-to-date climate events, research and changes to New Jersey's coastal communities and habitats. Learn about community planning and technical assistance, and risks to communities and wildlife habitat. This discussion will include recycling updates and the importance of our area to migratory birds.



We'll hold our Installation of New Board officers and recognize the contributions of Carolyn Bassett and Gail Davis with an in-person meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. This is an exciting road trip to Cape May to visit the Harriet Tubman Museum and have lunch at the Blue Pig in Congress Hall! More details coming soon.

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## Membership Vice President

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

Welcome to our new March members:

Mary Rann of Marmora  
Marjorie Plackter of Margate  
Margaret Goldberg of Linwood



Joan Leavy, a long-time member of AAUW who moved away has now returned to Atlantic County and wanted members to know of her new address and phone. Welcome back Joan! 206 Lander Road EHT NJ. 08234 cell 609-335-2004

April continues to be 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 now because they will be members through to June 2023. The fee will be \$85. Please see the membership application form in the email along with this newsletter. If you have a question or concerns, I can be reached on my cell phone: 609-602-4467 or the email listed above.

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## Nominating Committee

Kristina Baker

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Our slate of nominees for the 2022-2024 term were presented and approved during our March Branch Meeting. At our April 20th Annual Meeting, there will be an election for these Board Officers. Nominations can be taken from the floor as long as the member nominated confirms her willingness to serve. The Installation of new Board Officers and tributes to Carolyn Bassett and Gail Davis will be held during our May 20th program in Cape May. Details to follow.

**Membership VP** - Kris Baker  
**Finance Officer** - Lois Fried  
**Community Partnerships Officer** - Virginia Rettig  
**Treasurer** - Linda Karp  
**STEM Officer** - Theresa Basquez  
**Board Secretary** – Joan Leavy

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## Scholarship Officer

Karen Poorman

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The scholarship committee recommended, and the board approved the following scholarships.

AAUW Atlantic has offered a scholarship to the 2022 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) event to Alicia Petrany, a sophomore at Rowan University. The NCCWSL is a three-day virtual event with a goal to elevate leadership, advocacy, and equity for college women.



Additional scholarships:

- \$3,000 to Stockton to a woman minoring in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies.
  - \$1,000 to ACCC to a part time student who lives in Atlantic County
  - \$2,000 to ACCC to a full time second year student majoring in Human Services with an interest in gerontology who is a resident of Cape May or Atlantic County. ACCC would choose up to three students and submit their essays to AAUW scholarship committee for consideration.
  - \$2,000 to Salem Community College to a woman in the scientific glassblowing department who is a resident of New Jersey. Salem CC will solicit essays and choose up to three candidates to be presented to the scholarship committee for consideration.
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## Facebook

Karen Poorman

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Members may post directly to the closed group page. Some posts may need approval, but you do not have to have an intermediary post for you. If any new members have not joined the closed group (as differentiated from the open page), "Friend" Karen Mellinger Poorman and you will be invited. When the page is active, more members will see the posts. Interest groups are encouraged to post pictures and announcements. Post a poem, an opinion, a meme, a joke...Social media is meant to be social and timely!



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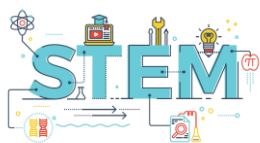
## STEM

Gail Davis

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Join Linda Harmon, Theresa Basquez, and me as we host Teen Tech at ACCC's Mays Landing Campus on May 25 from 8am to 1pm. Volunteers are needed for a variety of easy tasks such as bus greeters, workshop monitors and public relations Please email Linda Harmon at linda.harmon@gmail.com or by phone at 609-204-8596 if you can help out.



### STEMINIST CAMPS

Are on track for July 24-30 at Stockton U and we need volunteers for Day Counselors, possibly Dorm Moms and Core Class Monitors. etc. Please let me know if you can volunteer at the email above and which days/nights you may be available. Meals provided and probably T shirt also.

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## Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

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We are currently working with seven clients who are preparing for the Praxis tests. Two are in Math, two in Writing and the others in Reading. One client has her next test in early April and we helped get her an accommodation that allows her more time. Let's all think positive thoughts for her!



Virginia Rettig and Christine Ruth are going to start working with clients we get from AVANZAR to pilot a program that assists with GED testing. We are hoping we can broaden our services to (mostly) women who have been in really devastating circumstances. Look at their website to see how AVANZAR helps: <https://avanzarnow.org/>. You'll note the button in the upper right-hand corner of their site that allows victims to quickly exit. That illustrates how dangerous the lives of people can be. We can help provide something to help them recover!

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**“A Good Time Was Had By All”**

By Kathy Zeigenfus

A meeting, a meal, a game in a room,  
seeing friends’ faces certainly beats Zoom.  
We talked and we hugged, meeting new friends and old,  
an in-person meeting—a story to be told.



On March 26, Aida and Theresa, our Hospitality Team,  
honored Ukraine with a blue and yellow theme.  
Jackie’s invocation spoke of peace throughout the world.  
Mary Lou’s pot luck luncheon led to appetites unfurled.



Many thanks to our fabulous cooks.  
Home-made recipes, who needs books?  
Salads, hummus, macaroni and cheese,  
desserts galore, so many to please.

Our theme - Women in History.  
A few quips in trivia were a mystery.  
Kathy and Carol posed questions about women  
from First Ladies and singers to women who like swimmin’.



Our members were brilliant with answers so true.  
There were very few questions which needed a clue.  
The trivia game was a hit we recall.  
Truly, a good time was had by all!





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## Items of Interest

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### 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.

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Where Do You Go to Vote In Person?  
NEW VOTING AREAS



In 2020 a Census was taken in the United States, which resulted in changes to many voting areas. To fully understand these changes, there are four important facts to keep in mind:

#1 – The 2020 Census counted ALL people– meaning all people from newborns to those over 100. There was no count for the purpose of the Census of how many people in a given area were registered to vote or who met the qualifications to register to vote; in this respect, the Census process had nothing to do with voter registration.

#2 – The need to establish new voting area boundary lines – Districts, Wards, etc. - is not discretionary. New Jersey statutes decree exactly when boundary lines must be moved based on the population. The statutes also describe who makes the new boundary line determinations, which are discretionary.

#3 – The establishment of or any change in the boundary lines of a Ward in any municipality is determined by the total number of people living in that Ward. However, if the boundary line of a Ward is changed, the boundary lines of the voting Districts within that Ward must also be changed, that that boundary line change IS based on the number of registered voters.

#4 - When Ward or District boundary lines are changed, voters may not only have a new voting location, but also new candidates on their ballots. All municipal Ward and District boundary line changes resulting from the 2020 Census must be approved and the maps signed by the County Boards of Election not later than March 24, 2022.

While any changes in the Congressional District boundary lines, the County Commission boundary lines, and the Municipal Ward and District boundary lines should be communicated to the voters by their respective public bodies, each voter bears the responsibility to determine exactly how the 2020 census has affected local voting locations and candidates.

#### EARLY VOTING

By early April, the County Boards of Elections in New Jersey also must approve the Early Voting locations in each County for the Primary election which will take place on June 7, 2022. These early voting sites will be the same for the General Election in November. The number of early voting sites required and which the state will pay for is determined by the State based on the County's voting population. Each County may establish as many additional voting sites as it deems appropriate, but the County must bear the full costs of all sites beyond what the State has established. The locations of the Primary Election Early Voting sites will be announced by the County Boards of Elections in early April. Early voting will occur 3 days prior to the June 7th Primary Election - on June 3, 4 and 5. The good news about early voting is that all voters casting a vote in person through the early voting process will be presented with a voting screen which will reflect all new voting boundary lines for that voter.

Make your vote count by knowing where you go to vote!!

My sister, Jane Comitz, is a member of Polish American Women in Los Angeles. She shared with me the contact information for an organization which sends supplies directly to the Polish families who are providing shelter, clothing, and food to the Ukrainian refugees. Currently, all of the Ukrainian refugees who are in Poland are housed by Polish families.

You can donate on-line and pay via credit card on the website for the Legion of Young Polish Women at <https://lypw.org/donations/> or send a check to:

The Legion of Young Polish Women  
Memo: Ukrainian Relief  
PO Box 56-110  
Chicago, Illinois 60656



**The Legion of  
Young Polish Women**  
Women With A Cause

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## INTEREST GROUPS

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### Explorer's Interest Group

Kristina Baker

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The Explorer Interest Group is a new group that began this fall at the request of members who wanted to visit interesting and educational locations in the area. Sometimes, we do not avail ourselves of things that are close to home. All members are welcome to join any of our monthly trips. We usually schedule our outings on the 4th Friday of each month in the afternoon.



We met on March 25 at the Cape May County Airport where the Naval Air Aviation Museum is housed. We had a private tour for an hour where our guide explained how the facility trained dive bomber flyers for World War 11. We saw numerous aircraft, engines and heard an explanation of women who enlisted in the military during the war.

Your RSVP is required for our April 22<sup>nd</sup> visit to the Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton. Pam Tyson will need to send you a parking pass before the visit so let us know if you plan to attend. Keep an eye out for a flyer on this program.

May 27 - the Explorer Group will not meet due to the Memorial Day weekend. The Program Committee is planning a visit to the Harriet Tubman Museum and lunch in late May.

June 24- Bev Schechtman is looking into a private tour of the pipe organ at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. It is the largest organ in the world, as measured by the number of pipes. Depending on the number of people who plan to attend will determine the type of tour we can have. Let me know your thoughts so we can plan accordingly.

If you have questions about our group, I can be reached at 609-602-4467 or at Kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

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### Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

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Greetings ladies. Thanks so much to Diana for her amazing presentation on Hamlet and the life of Shakespeare. It was wonderful to see so many of you "in person". The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 29 at 10:30, again at the Linwood Library. Shelley Cohen will facilitate "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell. We will continue our Shakespeare theme with Anne Tyler's "Vinegar Girl". This meeting will be held at the home of Terry Dailey on June 3. Please note that this is a change of date.

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## For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

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At our last meeting we finished our discussion of "Robert E Lee and Me" which everyone agreed was an eye-opening book, well worth reading. We also talked about how poverty affects the learning abilities of young children. We decided that instead of starting on a new book right away, we would watch and discuss some Ted Talks. (They are usually under 20 minutes long). So I am suggesting that we watch the following three TED TALKS:



[The N-Word in the Classroom](#) Elizabeth S. Pryor

[The Power of the Black Experience in the Classroom](#) Keith Mayes

[The Untapped Genius that could change science for the better](#) Jedidah Isler

All of these talk about the classroom and the black experience. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 7 at 1 pm on Zoom. Let Carolyn know if you plan to come, and she will send you a link.

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## Great Decisions

Lynne Walters

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Our Great Decisions group will be meeting at the Margate Library in April and May. After reading about an area of national concern, we will meet to view short films and discuss these issues. Some of these issues include Biden's Agenda, Russia and the U.S., and Climate Change. This program has been developed by the Foreign Policy Association. Discussion groups have taken place throughout the U.S. for a number of years. Membership in this year's program has been closed.



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## Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

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Mondays from 4:00 to 6:00 via Zoom we continue to discuss our families, food, restaurants, hobbies, world problems - in Spanish, of course. If you would like to join us to practice in a pleasant, supportive atmosphere, please contact me!!

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## Ethnic Cuisines

Ann-Maria Guevara

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Hello, Ethnic Lunchers! The March gathering was Thursday March 31 at Rama Thai in Egg Harbor Township and it was well attended. Our next communal meal will be a dinner at Sofia, 9314 Amherst Ave., Margate on Thursday, April 28 at 4:00 p.m. Here is the link: <https://www.sofiaofmargate.com/> Sofia's specialty is Greek food, and the decor is lovely. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please RSVP to Gretchen: gretchenb66@gmail.com or me: amguevara@comcast.net.

Finally, if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, just let us know and we'll be happy to send you all follow-up emails on our lunches.



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## Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

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The next travel group will be presented by **Anne Carson** who will tell us about the white water rafting trips she and her husband have taken (two different times) on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in **Idaho**. It was a six night excursion deep into the Wild and Scenic river where there is no cell phone reception, or combustion engines or electric lights. It was such an amazing trip, they did it twice and would love to return another time. Anne will present her program on Wednesday, April 6, at 1pm via Zoom. Let Carolyn know if you want to "tune in" and she will send you a link. You may remember the earlier program Anne did on bicycling in Germany. This girl is adventurous!



**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

|                        |                                   |                                                                                                                                                               |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mondays                | 4:00 pm Zoom                      | <b>Conversational Spanish</b>                                                                                                                                 | Jeanette Flax         |
| Mondays<br>April & May | 3:30 pm 4/4/22<br>(Note new time) | <b>Great Decisions</b>                                                                                                                                        | Lynne Walters         |
| Apr 6<br>Wednesday     | 1:00 pm Zoom                      | <b>Travel Group</b><br>White Water Rafting in Idaho                                                                                                           | Carolyn Bassett       |
| Apr 7<br>Thursday      | 1:00 pm Zoom                      | <b>For a More Equal Society</b>                                                                                                                               | Carolyn Bassett       |
| Apr 20<br>Wednesday    | 7 pm<br>Zoom                      | <b>Annual Meeting and Program</b><br>How Climate Change Impacts in NJ                                                                                         | Tula Christopoulos    |
| Apr 22<br>Friday       | 1:30 pm<br>On-Site                | <b>Explorer's Interest Group</b><br>Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton                                                                                     | Kris Baker            |
| Apr 28<br>Thursday     | Noon                              | <b>Ethnic Cuisine Lunch</b><br>Sofia's of Margate                                                                                                             | Ann-Maria Guevara     |
| Apr 29<br>Friday       | 10:30 am<br>Linwood Library       | <b>Book Group</b><br>Hamnet                                                                                                                                   | Mary Lou Breidenstine |
| May 20<br>Friday       | Time: TBD<br>In-Person            | <b>Installation of Board Officers &amp;<br/>Recognition of Carolyn Bassett and Gail<br/>Davis</b><br><br>Congress Hall, Cape May and Harriet<br>Tubman Museum | Tula Christopoulos    |