








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

**THE PEOPLE WHO KEEP US CONNECTED ALL YEAR LONG**

 <p><b>Carolyn Bassett</b> For a More Equal Society &amp; Travel Group</p>	 <p><b>Mary Lou Breidenstine</b> <b>Book Group</b></p>	 <p><b>Ann-Maria Guevara &amp; Gretchen Braunwarth</b> <b>Ethnic Cuisine Group</b></p>
 <p><b>Jeanette Flax</b> <b>Spanish Group</b></p>	 <p><b>Lynne Walters</b> <b>Great Decisions Group</b></p>	<p><b>INTEREST GROUP LEADERS</b></p>   <p><b>Kristina Baker</b> <b>Explorers Group</b></p>

**President's Message**

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

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Dear Friends,

Although we don't publish our Newsletter during the summer months, that doesn't mean there aren't plenty of opportunities to remain engaged in life-long learning and adventure.

- Courtesy of Carolyn, Mary Lou, Ann-Maria and Gretchen, Jeanette, Lynne and Kris you'll find in both the Interest Group and Calendar sections the dates when we hope you'll be able to sample one activity (if not all) of these engaging groups. Our Interest Group Leaders organize, communicate, and offer hospitality to current, new and potential AAUW members. I'm grateful for their year-round efforts.
- If you're looking for a short-term project and want to support our STEM programs for young women, we need volunteers in May and July. Please see the STEM section for more details.
- Congratulations to Tula Christopoulos, who received the first Impressive Woman Mug picturing Fannie Lou Hamer. Tula invited her friend Susan Raser to our Climate Change Program. Won't you participate in our monthly program drawing to receive your own Impressive Woman mug? Simply bring along a friend, who would be eligible for membership, to one of programs.

Join me in Cape May for our May in-person tribute to Gail Davis and Carolyn Bassett and Installation of new Board Officers on May 20th. In September, we'll hold a "welcome back" program. Look for details in our September 1st Newsletter.

With warm wishes,

*Jackie*

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**Program Vice President**

Tula Christopoulos

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Despite the fact that it was presented on ZOOM (which we're all tired of!), our April meeting on Climate Change and Its Impact on New Jersey, was very successful and made a significant impression on all who attended. Led by Virginia Rettig, her panel of knowledgeable scientists touched upon several aspects of the effects of climate change and updated us on the plastic bag mandate in our home state.

Meanwhile, it's hard to believe we've arrived at the last Spring '22 meeting. The March meeting proved how much we missed being with each other in-person. On **Friday, May 20th**, we'll get another opportunity to meet in person. This time, we're on a road trip to Cape May for an educational and fun event:

11:00 am Lunch and Induction of new officers inside the Blue Pig Tavern in Congress Hall

2:00 pm private tour of the Harriet Tubman Museum

RSVP to Linda Karp and, if you're going on the Tour, send a \$12 check to Linda no later than May 2nd. Carpooling is being organized by Carolyn Bassett. To learn more about the museum, see the [website here](#).



Have a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer, and see you in September for another year of socially and educationally relevant, entertaining and fun programs.

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**Membership Vice President**

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

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As many of you are aware Loretta Ann Scheetz passed away on March 22, 2022. Loretta was a member of AAUW since 2007 and was an active member of our Fundraising committee for many years. A current member mentioned that Loretta inspired her to rejoin after many years away and others remarked on her friendly and cheerful personality. She will be missed.

I've received suggestions for increasing membership and participation by our Branch members. One recommendation is to start a Bridge card group. If you would be interested, let me know either by phone (609-602-4467) or my email. Please let me know if:

- a) you are a seasoned player
- b) have some knowledge of the game
- c) would like to learn how to play

Learning everyone's skill level will help in the planning of the group. If you have a concern or suggestion, do not hesitate to contact me. ~Kris

**A NOTE FROM LINDA KARP, Treasurer re: Membership Dues.** I have not sent out the Membership Dues invoices for the coming year. National has been updating the membership database and website. Once that is completed, the dues bill will be sent to you. Please be patient and know that you will still be a member in good standing and able to participate in all AAUW events.

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**Scholarship Officer**

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

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Meet our 2022 Stockton \$3000 scholarship recipient Kaylee Heslin. She is a junior majoring in Child Cognitive Psychology. Jackie Shelley-Tasoff and Virginia Rettig attended Stockton's Donor Appreciation luncheon on behalf of AAUW-AC.

We're awaiting information on 3 potential recipients from Salem County Community College for the \$2000 Scientific Glassblowing scholarship and 6 potential recipients from Atlantic Cape Community College for 2 scholarships totaling \$3000. The committee will select the final scholarship recipients.





Join our Facebook group to be up to date on Summer activities as there is no newsletter again until September! Members may post directly to the closed group page. Interest Group leaders and participants are encouraged to post and share their upcoming activities and experiences so others can learn what is happening. 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. 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

ghdath@icloud.com

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**TeenTech 2022** – will be held Wednesday **May 25, 2022** at Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC) Mays Landing Campus. Tentative time schedule: 8 am - 1 pm. Volunteers are needed to help 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 or email linda.harmon@gmail.com

**STEMinist Camp – July 24 to July 30** at Stockton University. We need day counselors, dorm moms, and other supervisors who will attend classes/workshops/meals with our campers. The curriculums have been upgraded to reflect their ages. This is an exciting time for our Branch so please contact me if you are interested. As always, you can donate to AWCO ( 501C3) to advance this program.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Stem Officer and I am pleased to be able to turn it over to Theresa Basquez for the future. I know she'll do a great job! Please let me know if you can volunteer at Ghdath@comcast.net

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**Tutors for Educational Equity**

Virginia Rettig

rettigva@gmail.com

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Praxis Tutoring: We finished tutoring one client in Writing and we are still awaiting test results for another that we sought an accommodation for. We have three clients in Math and are intaking a new client. We've learned that some clients seeking assistance have not taken the tests yet. We are doing "intake" with them to ensure they have all of the study tools in place and we are encouraging them to take practice tests before we meet up for tutoring.

AVANZAR GED: Virginia Rettig and Christine Ruth will be meeting with AVANZAR staff soon to discuss how to move forward on the GED tutoring pilot program. We are hoping we can broaden our services to (mostly) women who have been in really devastating circumstances.

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**ITEMS OF INTEREST****AAUW NJ Annual Meeting**

Linda Harmon

AAUW NJ will hold our Annual Meeting to elect a slate of officers and hold a Leadership Conference in person on **June 4** at the Hilton in East Brunswick, from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. An exciting day is being planned to include national and motivational speakers and leadership training sessions. A continental breakfast and hot, served lunch will be provided. Discounted rooms at the hotel will be available for those who would like to stay the night before.

Register by May 31. The slate of officers to be elected and information on registration will be sent in the AAUW NJ Newsletter and posted on the [website](#). The cost will be \$40.00, subsidized by AAUW NJ.



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. Lynn present at the AAUW of NJ event on Thursday **May 5** at 7:00 pm. via Zoom. More information and registration can be found on the AAUW NJ [website](#).

### Mail-In-Ballots ---- The Good, The Bad, The Solution

**THE GOOD** In July 2009, the Legislature eliminated the use of “Absentee Ballots”. In order to receive an Absentee Ballot, voters were required to apply, in writing, why they would not be able to get to their assigned polling place on Election Day. The Legislature replaced the Absentee Ballot with the “Mail-in-Ballot” [MIB] which is much more responsive to voter needs. No reason is required to request a MIB. The voter has the opportunity for early voting and can vote as soon as the ballot is received. The voter can vote in the calm and quiet of his/her home. There is no concern about getting to the polling place on Election Day. And, moreover, the Legislature created Drop Boxes in order to mail the MIBs without postage costs.

The MIBs for the June 7th Primary Election were mailed April 22nd.

**THE BAD** Many more MIBs are mailed out than are returned . In the past 7 years in Atlantic County, and just counting the General Elections, over 75,000+ ballots which were printed, addressed, and mailed out, were never used, at a cost to the taxpayer of over \$7.00/ballot.

Also, some voters do not properly fill out the MIBs resulting in overvotes, incorrect attempts to correct mistaken votes, failure to fully fill-in the required bubble in order to have the vote count, using the wrong color ink, or putting extraneous marks on the MIB which count as votes.

Also, every election, hundreds of statutorily required “cure letters” are sent out by the County Board of Elections to voters who have not signed the Voter Certification which is attached to the inner envelope, or to voters who have removed the Voter Certification from the envelope and not returned it with the MIB. The cure letters are sent in an effort to obtain a proper voter signature or other identifying document in order to validate the MIB. Many cure letters are never returned so those ballots are not counted.

**THE SOLUTION** The solution lies in sending MIBs only to those voters who request them, rather than sending the MIBs according to the New Jersey statutes which require that any voter who received an MIB for the General Election in 2016, or who received an MIB for any election in 2017 and 2018 automatically receive an MIB.

Voters in that situation can stop receiving an MIB by filling out the Opt-Out form which is found on the Atlantic County Clerk’s web site [www.atlanticcountyclerk.org](http://www.atlanticcountyclerk.org), click on elections and then Mail-in-Ballots. At the end of that information piece, there is the ability to click on “Opt-Out” to get the form. However, since the MIBs have already been mailed for the June 7th Primary Election, the Opt-Out form, if mailed in now, will not be effective until the General Election.

Additionally, the State Voter Registration System [SVRS] must be updated. Voters themselves have a big part in making this happen. Any voter at a residence receiving an MIB for someone who is deceased, or who no longer votes from that address, should notify the Superintendent of Elections and follow the necessary procedures to have that deceased or absent voter’s name removed from the SVRS.

MIBs are absolutely great and should be readily available to everyone who wants one – but only to those who do.

Lynn Caterson

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## INTEREST GROUPS

### Explorers Group

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

On April 22, 2022 the Explorer Group visited the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University arranged by Pam Tyson. Fifteen of us received a tour along with an explanation on the exhibition "After the End of the World" which examines the humanitarian crisis of displaced persons that unfolded after the Second World War.

Any AAUW member can join the Explorer Group. We meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 1:30 pm. All outings are subject to change and updates will be sent to members on the Explorers Group email list. Note that there will not be a summer AAUW newsletter nor will a flyer be sent out explaining outings. **To keep informed during the summer CALL ME at 609-603-4467 or send me an email to be added to my Explorers Group list.**



**May 27 - the Explorer Group will not meet** due to the Installation of Officers luncheon at the Blue Pig Tavern and visit to the Harriet Tubman Museum scheduled for May 20.

**June 24 1:30 PM** Ralph Silver Fox Alpacas is our first destination. We will meet at 714 West Herschel Street, Egg Harbor City. We will learn about these wonderful creatures and meet them up close. Then we will drive 10 minutes to:

Swan Bay Folk Art Center  
300 Sooys Landing Road in Port Republic

Niki Giberson, the first mayor of Port Republic (she will also talk about this role) along with the center and farm where people come to learn skills from days gone by to create pieces of their own (basket weaving, wool weaving etc) . The farm is home to sheep and chickens and in May 2015 was taped for an episode on the television series "Parts Unknown " with Anthony Bourdain.

Both private tours are free but both centers have a retail store selling homemade goods from the animals. No obligation to buy.

**July 22 1:30 PM** We will be going to Brigantine to see Artist Eduardo Jimenez. Eduardo picks up trash on his daily walks from the Brigantine Seawall to Laguna Grill. "I create artworks with collected trash," he says. He is an advocate for a cleaner community and has found a niche in repurposed art. For more information on his art: The Press "Art, trash meet at beach" article written by Selena Vazquez.



**August 26 1:30** Plans are in the works for a Salt Marsh Safari tour or a relaxing day at the beach. Locals tend to ignore the beauty around us that "out of towners" pay a lot to enjoy. We will close out the summer enjoying nature at the shore.

Get on my mailing list for updates and options for carpooling to our destinations. If you have questions about our group, I can be reached at 609-602-4467 or at Kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

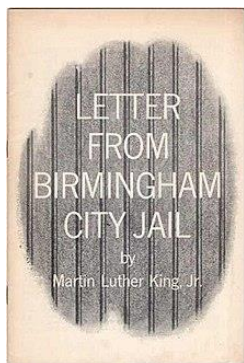
### Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

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Greetings! Ann-Maria Guevara will lead a poetry discussion on **May 13**. The poetry selections can be emailed upon request. On **June 3** we will discuss "Vinegar Girl" by Anne Tyler at the home of Terri Daily. I am trying to line up presenters for the summer. The author we will focus on is Annie Dillard, a wonderful American writer deserving of more recognition. The first selection is her Pulitzer Prize winning non-fiction book "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek". The first meeting will be on **July 8** and Carolyn has agreed to lead. "The Living", a novel, will be discussed on **July 15** and "An American Childhood", a memoir on **July 29**. Finally, our movie and lunch will take place on **August 5**. **If you are interested in joining our discussion group, send me an email to be added to the list.**



For a More Equal Society will meet Thursday, **May 5** at 1pm on Zoom. We will be discussing “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as the statement that prompted it, “Statement by Alabama Clergymen” of April 8, 1963. Both are available on the Internet. Let Carolyn know if you plan to attend.

For a More Equal Society will meet the **first Thursday** of the month over the summer. We will be discussing ways to promote a more equal society by discussing readings, podcasts, videos, etc. **If you would like to join us, let Carolyn know** and she will tell you what the topic will be for the month and send you a link to the meetings. (We will continue to meet via Zoom).

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**Great Decisions**

Lynne Walters

rrwalters321@hotmail.com

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Our Great Decisions group will meet 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. **Look for information in February or March of 2023 for the next program.** Enrollment is limited.



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**Conversational Spanish**

Jeannette Flax

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As everyone who would like to maintain or improve his or her Spanish knows, taking a summer break is not helpful. So we meet year-round **every Monday** from 4:00 to 6:00 via Zoom to practice. We share our family stories, travel stories, gardening activities, and look up new words as we need them. We do not do grammar exercises, but help each other and support efforts to express ourselves in Spanish. **If you would like to join us, contact me.** We are a friendly group!



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**Ethnic Cuisines**

Ann-Maria Guevara

amguevara@comcast.net

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Hello, ethnic food lovers! In April, we enjoyed an early dinner at Sofia in Margate. The setting is lovely and the food (Greek) is excellent. We took the opportunity to do a shore restaurant before the crowds come in May. Below is our schedule for the next several outings. **Send us an email to be added to the RSVP reminder list.** All are welcome. Each participant pays their own way. Usually, the bill is not divided and we provide a chart to help you calculate your own portion with tax and tip. It is helpful to bring cash in small bills to pay your fare.



May 26 (Thursday): lunch at Smithville Inn, Smithville  
June 16 (Thursday): dinner at 4:00pm at Golden Pyramid, Mays Landing  
July 14 (Thursday): lunch at Mike's Pasta House, Northfield  
Aug. 18 (Thursday): lunch at El Coyote, EHT

Travel Group will meet Wednesday, **May 4 at 1pm**. Carolyn Bassett will present a program on Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia which will include a little history of the area (it was the site of John Brown’s raid on the Federal Arsenal) and some of the nature activities available in the area.



Wednesday, **June 1 at 1pm** will be A Visit to Abu Dhabi. The capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Abu Dhabi is a mix of old history and structures, traditional customs, modern and opulent architecture, and a multi-national population. Get a glimpse of this fascinating locale on the other side of the world. Presented by Valerie Koob.

The Travel Group will most likely not be meeting again until the Fall. **Let Carolyn know if you plan to attend either the May or June presentations.** Both will be on Zoom.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:			
Mondays	4:00 pm Zoom	<b>Conversational Spanish</b>	Jeanette Flax
May 4 Wednesday	1:00 pm Zoom	<b>Travel Group</b> Harper’s Ferry	Carolyn Bassett
May 5 Thursday	1:00 pm Zoom	<b>For a More Equal Society</b>	Carolyn Bassett
May 5 Thursday	7:00 pm Zoom	<b>Make Your Vote Count</b> AAUW NJ Event with Lynn Caterson	
May 13 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	<b>Book Group</b> Poetry	Mary Lou Breidenstine
May 20 Friday	11 am Cape May	<b>Branch Program and Meeting</b> Luncheon, Installation of Officers and Harriet Tubman Museum	Tula Christopoulos
May 25 Wednesday	8am – 1pm ACCC	<b>TeenTech 2022</b>	Linda Harmon
May 26 Thursday	Noon On-Site	<b>Ethnic Cuisine Lunch</b> Smithville Inn, Smithville	Ann-Maria Guevara
June 1 Wednesday	1:00 pm Zoom	<b>Travel Group</b> Abu Dhabi	Carolyn Bassett
June 2 Thursday	1:00 pm Zoom	<b>For a More Equal Society</b>	Carolyn Bassett
June 3 Friday	10:30 am Terry Daily’s Home	<b>Book Group</b> Vinegar Girl	Mary Lou Breidenstine

Continued on the next page...

June 4 Saturday	8:30 am-2:30 pm East Brunswick	<b>AAUW NJ Annual Mtg &amp; Leadership Conf.</b> Register by May 31	Linda Harmon
June 16 Thursday	4:00 pm On-Site	<b>Ethnic Cuisine Lunch</b> Golden Pyramid, Mays Landing	Ann-Maria Guevara
June 24 Friday	1:30 pm On-Site	<b>Explorer's Interest Group</b> Silver Fox Alpacas, Egg Harbor City Swan Bay Folk Art Center, Port Republic	Kris Baker
July 7 Thursday	1:00 pm Zoom	<b>For a More Equal Society</b>	Carolyn Bassett
July 8 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	<b>Book Group</b> Pilgrim at Tinker Creek	Mary Lou Breidenstine
July 14 Thursday	Noon On-Site	<b>Ethnic Cuisine Lunch</b> Mike's Pasta House, Northfield	Ann-Maria Guevara
July 15 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	<b>Book Group</b> The Living	Mary Lou Breidenstine
July 22 Friday	1:30 pm On-Site	<b>Explorer's Interest Group</b> Artist Eduardo Jimenez, Brigantine	Kris Baker
July 24 to 30	Stockton Univ.	<b>STEMINIST Camp</b>	Gail Davis/ Theresa Basquez
July 29 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	<b>Book Group</b> An American Childhood	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Aug 4 Thursday	1:00 pm Zoom	<b>For a More Equal Society</b>	Carolyn Bassett
Aug 5 Friday	10:30 am	<b>Book Group Luncheon</b>	Mary Lou Breidenstine
August 18 Thursday	Noon On-Site	<b>Ethnic Cuisine Lunch</b> El Coyote, EHT	Ann-Maria Guevara
August 26 Friday	1:30 pm On-Site	<b>Explorer's Interest Group</b> Salt Marsh Safari or Day at the Beach	Kris Baker