



Atlantic County (NJ) Branch

THE NEWSLETTER

October 2022

Vol. 122 no. 02

PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS

A DREAM COME TRUE!



Quiana Lewis-Gibbs

[Background credit](#)

President's Message

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

Dear Friends,

Last October Quiana successfully completed her PRAXIS teacher certification tests with guidance from two of our Tutors for Educational Equity (TEE) Virginia Rettig, Community Partnership Officer, and Rona Kaplan. What a joy to see Quiana as she welcomed her first class of third grade students.

Our Tutors initiative has grown over this past year to include additional volunteers Lois Fried, Ann-Maria Guevara and Lorraine Stoughton. This year they will expand our tutoring services to help AVANZAR (formerly the Women's Center) clients pass their GED exams.

Last year our Branch received a \$750 grant from AAUW-NJ's Charitable Trust. The Trustees were so impressed with the success of our initiative they asked Virginia to submit a grant proposal for \$1,000.

Please consider being a tutor to someone of any ethnicity and gender (yes, we have a male client) that the Atlantic County Collaborative for Educational Equity will pair up with you. Why is it necessary? To get more teachers into Atlantic County classrooms so that every student has the opportunity to be taught by a teacher who looks like them. Are you qualified? Most likely! Please contact Virginia, she is ready to welcome you! See her article below.

Last year we raised \$455 through our Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser. Please consider supporting this important initiative by making a \$5 or more donation. Please see Kathy Zeigenfus's article for more information.

Two members of the AAUW-AC leadership team will be moving out of state next month.

Connie Smedley, past President, Program VP, Fundraising Officer, and most recently member of the Scholarship Committee will be moving to Pennsylvania. I met Connie as a new member when she led the Fundraising Committee and she was instrumental in encouraging me to participate in leadership. Her organizational skills, commitment to our Branch and cheery disposition were essential to our Branch's success for which members who've worked with her over the years are grateful.



Gail Davis, STEM Officer and member of the Fundraising Committee, will also be leaving us this month for Florida. Gail coordinated interviews of girls applying to STEM camp from Atlantic County and organized other NJ AAUW chairpersons. As a member of the Fundraising and Nominating Committees, Gail was diligent in soliciting donations from area businesses and convincing others to become members of our Board of Officers. On behalf of the girls who attended STEM Camps, we're grateful for all of Gail's efforts in support of our mission.

Thanks to Kris Baker, Membership VP, we have another Interest Group in the making – Documentary/Short Film. For those of you who enjoyed our "field trip" to the Harriet Tubman Museum in May, Tula Christopoulos, Program VP, has details on our Saturday, October 22nd trip to the Alice Paul Institute.

With warm autumnal wishes,

Jackie

Program Vice President

Tula Christopoulos

tegea222@gmail.com



Rachael Colvin-Manning

The SEPTEMBER meeting, Self-care: Towards a More Peaceful You, was a great success, with Rachael Colvin-Manning sitting in for the scheduled speaker Alison Strittmatter who, unfortunately, had test positive for Covid a couple of days earlier. Rachael did a wonderful job stressing key self-care tips to help us stay fit and healthy, physically, emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. Mary Lou Breidenstine and her team of chefs provided us with a variety of wonderful dinner choices. The conversation among the members and guests was lively, demonstrating how grateful we were to all be together in person!

On Saturday, October 22nd, we will have a two-hour tour at the **Alice Paul Institute in Mt. Laurel, NJ**. The cost of the tour is \$15 per person.

- 11:30 am **Farm & Fisherman Tavern** Cherry Hill. Each will pay for her own lunch.
- 1:30-3:30 pm, **Alice Paul Institute**.
- We will each drive up on our own, BUT.....If you need a ride or are able to drive others who need a ride, please let Tula know (tegea222@gmail.com; (609) 226-5827)



PAYMENT DEADLINE DATE: Mail your \$15 check (payable to AAUW AC) for the tour to me at PO Box 603, Absecon, NJ 08201 NO LATER THAN October 18th, and confirm with me if you'll join us for both the lunch and tour, or just the tour. DETAILS TO FOLLOW! DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

Photos from September Program



Membership Vice President

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

National AAUW has our chapter listed as having 127 members. Anne Carson diligently updates our membership list each month, so that members can easily contact each other. The button for the list is found under the Newsletter green button and reads "Membership Directory." Consider saving a copy of this list so you can easily refer to it during the month. Also, listed is the "Leadership Directory, of the officers of our Branch. If you have a friend/relative who is interested in joining, the membership application is also available with a click of the "Membership Application" button.

Facebook

Karen Poorman

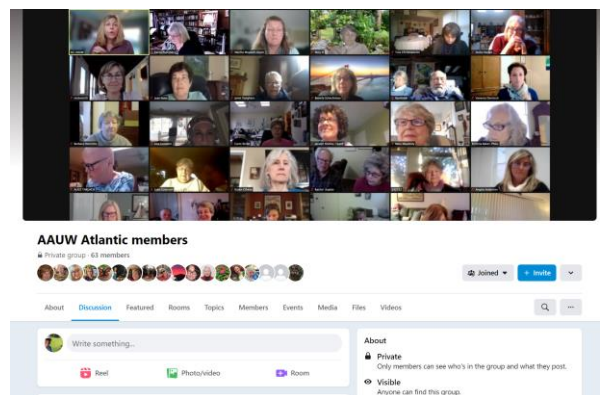
karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

What you need to know about our presence on Facebook: There is an AAUW Atlantic Page and an AAUW Atlantic Group. The **Page** can be read by everyone and anyone can join it. The **Group** is members only and can only be seen by members. Fifty of our members are having daily discussions, posting information, photos and updates on our activities on the group page.

Join Facebook. Go to Facebook.com and click "Create New Account." Enter the information they ask for. Click "Sign Up." To finish creating your account, you need to confirm your email or mobile phone number.

Once that is done, type "AAUW Atlantic Members" in the Facebook search bar. It will bring you to a screen that will ask if you are a member. I will receive a request from you and will approve you. That is the closed group page. You can "like" the AAUW Atlantic County Branch page.

It is good to "like" or post on Facebook at least occasionally because inactive accounts are the ones that tend to get hacked, so post on our group page. I hope to hear from you soon.





We are once again participating in the "Bosco's Friends Helping Friends" Fundraiser. You may purchase a coupon for \$5.00, which will give you a 25% discount off the lowest prices of most items. This special shopping event will take place on October 19. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go to our Tutors for Educational Equity program. This valuable endeavor, chaired by Virginia Rettig, helps students to pass the Praxis tests, needed to be eligible to get a teaching job in New Jersey. The proceeds will purchase costly PRAXIS books for the tutors and students. Many people last year purchased multiple Bosco's coupons to give out to family and friends or just made a donation to support this program. If you'd like to purchase coupons Carol will promptly mail them to you, please send a check payable to AAUW to:

Carol Zerbe
1414 Mississippi Ave.
Somers Point, NJ 08244.

Mark your calendar!

Our Third Annual No Calorie Scholarship/STEM Fundraiser, titled "A Night of Humor," will be held virtually by ZOOM at 7:00 on **Thursday, November 17**. Are you disappointed that we will not have an in-person luncheon at a lovely restaurant? We are as well and fervently hope we can soon resume these events over a glass of wine and a delicious meal. The need to support Scholarships and STEM activities remain. Thank you for your support the last two years. We hope you will enjoy our virtual "Night of Humor." We will focus on the need for laughing and smiling in these challenging times. You can look forward to invitations arriving in your mailbox mid-October.



Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

rettigva@yahoo.com

As the school year begins, our Tutors for Educational Equity (TEE) program is starting to get interest from new clients seeking to become full-time New Jersey teachers. To date, we've helped clients pass 16 tests and your generous donations have allowed us to fund that test-taking. We are always looking for interested AAUW members to tutor. We are holding a tutor meeting on Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Please contact me if you'd like to join in.



Have you renewed your AAUW Membership for 2022-2023?

Please Renew Online

For those of you who've renewed your membership, thank you! If you're one of the 24 people who haven't renewed, I ask that you do so by October 7th.

To date almost 50% of our members have renewed online. And, it only takes 5 to 10 minutes.

However, if you send a check to Linda Karp, our Treasurer, it will take her 20 minutes because she must look up your membership information to enter data you know off the top of your head. So far Linda has spent over 13 hours on processing membership renewals. If all of the 24 people who haven't renewed yet send in checks it will create an additional 8 hours of work for her.

If you haven't renewed, please renew online. See the green button labelled "Renew Your Membership Online" for easy-to-use instructions.

If you must send a check, please send it to Linda no later than October 7th. You can look up her address in the Leadership Directory - see the green button labelled "Leadership Directory." After that date, your membership may expire, which means that if you want to renew Linda will have to enter your information as a "new member."

INTEREST GROUPS

Documentary/Short Film Group

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com



This new group is based on the idea to watch a short movie (less than an hour) at home. We would then meet for an hour to discuss. The first meeting of this group was scheduled to meet on Friday September 30 where various ideas will be discussed. Please contact Kris via email if you are interested in joining the Documentary/Short Film Group. She will provide you with a recap of the meeting.

Explorers Group

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

Tula Christopoulos has arranged for a tour of the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room at Stockton University (Galloway campus). This will be on Friday, October 28 at 1 pm. The tour will include the special exhibit "The Greek War of Independence Through American Eyes".

This exhibit is timely. Since ancient times, the language, culture, and values of the Hellenes (Greeks) has impacted the world which has adopted and assimilated the values and aesthetics of the (Greeks) including the concept of democracy.

Please contact Kris via email if you are interested in joining the Explorers Group.



CONSTANTELOS
HELLENIC COLLECTION
AND READING ROOM

The Salon Group

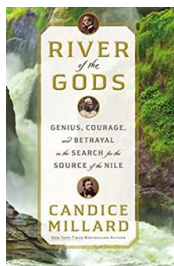
Valerie Koob

vkoob@aol.com

The Salon is a new discussion group, formed from the Great Decisions group. Members meet monthly to discuss a timely issue or a philosophical question. The Facilitator chooses the topic and prepares, in advance, some questions to pose at the meeting. The Facilitator may choose to describe the topic and supply some reading material in advance of the meeting, or for the more philosophical issues, may instead announce the topic to the group at the meeting and pose questions to the group, much as the salons in Paris operated years ago. There are no right or wrong answers, and we are not searching for a consensus. The discussion is the point! Past topics have included: An America Divided; The Battle Over Transgender Therapy, and The "Emerging Adult" Phase of Life.

- We generally meet the second Monday of each month at the Margate Library, from 2:30-3:30PM. Exceptions: we meet off-site in October and will not meet during April and May when the Great Decisions group will be meeting.
- Our next meeting date is Monday 10/10/22, from 2:30-3:30, at 613 Kingsley Drive in Ventnor.
- We encourage all members to volunteer to be a Facilitator at least once (more info available on request).
- Generally, we want to examine issues or events of national or international significance as well as questions of a philosophical nature. We want to avoid local/parochial issues. We want to talk about the big ideas!
- Valerie will email the group each month with topic info and copies of any reading material the Facilitator may want to use, or if the Facilitator prefers, the topic will be announced at the meeting, and the email will simply be a reminder and a request for an rsvp.
- We expect all members to listen actively, speak respectfully, stay on topic, be brief to allow others time to speak, and respect confidentiality. "What happens at the Salon stays at the Salon."

If you want to join the Salon group, please email me at VKoob@aol.com to be added to the group.



The AAUW Book Group will begin the fall season on Friday, October 7 at 10:30. Ann-Maria Guevara will lead a discussion on the Candice Millard's "River of the Gods." This non-fiction book relates the harrowing story of the mid-nineteenth century search for the mouth of the Nile. There is no lack of intrigue and betrayal in this fascinating account of obsession and quest for the unknown. Most meetings, including this one, are in the Linwood Library unless otherwise noted.

This Book Group has been meeting for almost 50 years. Several of us are original members, however we keep viable because we are always welcoming to new participants. Each season we try to maintain a variety of books that include fiction, non-fiction, biography, poetry, etc. If you would like to be on the Book Group reminder email contact Mary Lou Breidenstine at breidensti@aol.com. Hope to see you soon.

For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

For a More Equal Society: We are reading the book at the top of the banned book list, Gender Queer. We will talk about our reactions to it, and whether it warrants being banned - and how it could be used in a school setting. In addition, we are watching The US and the Holocaust on PBS, a three part series exploring how the actions of the US impacted the Holocaust..



We will meet on Thursday, October 13th at 1 pm on ZOOM. Let me know via email if you want to participate and I will send you a link the day of.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com

Our Spanish group continues meeting Mondays from 4:00 to 6:00 via Zoom for the convenience of members who have mobility difficulties or who are away from Atlantic County. We welcome anyone who has learned Spanish at home or at school and who wants to practice. We do not use a textbook, do not do grammar exercises, but share experiences of our families, travel, hobbies, reading in a relaxed way. We help one another to improve our vocabulary and to speak fluently. If you would like to join us, please contact me at jcflax@yahoo.com or (609)653-6177.

**Ethnic Cuisines**Ann-Maria Guevara
Gretchen Braunwrathamguevara@comcast.net
gretchenb66@gmail.com



For our October get-together, we have a reservation at Lady Magpie's Tea and Curiosities at Tuckerton Seaport. We're booked for 1:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14 (they're open only Friday-Monday). We'll be having the full tea, which includes finger sandwiches, scones, desserts and tea, and will cost \$30 per person (this includes tip). I've given them a deposit to hold our reservation. Here is the link: LADY MAGPIE'S TEA & CURIOSITIES - Curious and Curiouser (ladymagpiestea.com). This reservation is limited to 18 people. There are only a few spots left, so please RSVP to me as soon as possible.

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com



Malta is an island country in the Mediterranean Sea, between Sicily and North Africa. Malta is the topic of the next travel group which will be Wednesday, October 26 at 1pm via ZOOM. Mary and Phil Ingram will share their experience of their recent trip to Malta home of the Knights Templar, various prehistoric sites, and a beautiful vacation destination. Let Carolyn know if you'd like to attend, and she'll send you a link.



From left: Jan Smith, Theresa Basquez, Carolyn Bassett, Aida Colon, Bonnie Warwick, and Theresa Sartorio. August 2022

The Stockton PAC is asking for nine ushers for the upcoming event. Please consider joining us. The first program will be Tuesday, Oct. 18th. The show will be *The Wright Stuff – First in Flight*. You would need to be there by 9:45.



Other shows will include: Friday, December 9th – *The Atlantic Ballet: The Nutcracker*, Tuesday, March 7th – *Dear Esther* (a play about the

Holocaust), and May 9th – *The Bay Atlantic Symphony: How Music Talks*.

Each usher is assigned an area of the theater. Your responsibility is to direct the teachers and students to their seats. You remain seated in your area for the performance and provide direction or assistance if necessary. You will be finished by noon. Participants often gather for lunch following the performance. If interested, please contact Theresa by email or call 609 287-0775.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:			
Mondays	4:00 pm Zoom	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
Oct 4 Tuesday	6:30 pm Zoom	Tutors for Educational Equity Training	Virginia Rettig
Oct 7 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	Book Group River of the Gods	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Oct 10 Monday	2:30-3:30 pm Margate Library	The Salon Discussion Group	Valerie Koob
Oct 13 Thursday	1:00 pm Zoom	For a More Equal Society Topic: Banning Books	Carolyn Bassett
Oct 14 Friday	1:00 pm Tuckerton Seaport	Ethnic Cuisine Lady Magpie's Tea and Curiosities	Ann-Maria Guevara Gretchen Braunwraith
Oct 18 Tuesday	9:45 am Stockton Univ.	Stockton Theaters Ushers	Theresa Sartorio
Oct 22 Saturday	11:30 am Mt. Laurel	Lunch and Program Meeting Tour of Alice Paul Institute	Tula Christopoulos
Oct 26 Wednesday	1:00 pm Zoom	Travel Group Malta	Carolyn Bassett
TBD	TBD	Documentary/Short Film Group	Kris Baker
Oct 28 Friday	1:00 pm Stockton Univ. Galloway	Explorer's Group Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room at Stockton University	Kris Baker
Nov 17 Thursday	7:00 pm Via Zoom	Our Annual Fundraiser A Night of Humor	Kathy Zeigenfus