

PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS

**COME TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY
DECEMBER 10TH**



Happy Holidays!

President's Message

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity in support of our fundraising efforts. So far, \$210 was raised for our Tutors for Educational Equity program (see Virginia's update for the latest news and results), \$4,000 for scholarships to local colleges and Stockton, and \$2,000 for our July STEM Camp held in collaboration with Stockton University. If you were too busy to meet the November 14th deadline and you want to support our scholarship and STEM Camp efforts, you can still mail your check (made out to AWCO) to Claudine Keenan 230 Ridgewood Avenue in Galloway, NJ 08205. Just be certain to let her know which fund you're donating to and mail it before the end of the year.

My sincere thanks to the Fundraising Committee – Kathy Ziegenfus, Carol Zerbe, Jill Solotoroff and Anne Carson, and Tula Christopoulos, Zoom Executive Producer.

Would you like the gift of fewer emails? Based on feedback from our Board Officers, Interest Group Leaders, and members, we've decided to begin publishing this Newsletter on the following bimonthly schedule: **Beginning in January**, because it's cold outside and everyone wants something to read and learn about what's planned for the New Year; in **March** to advertise our Woman of Distinction Luncheon (yes, we're going to have one and will announce the details in January) and announce the slate of officers for the 2023-2025 term; in **May** to tickle your fancies with Interest Group happenings during the summer; **September** to welcome you back; and **November** to share our annual fundraiser and holiday plans.

Please join us on December 10th for our annual holiday gathering. We have much to celebrate together.

My warm wishes to you and your families for a joyous holiday season,

Jackie

Program Vice President

Tula Christopoulos

tegea222@gmail.com

The November 17th Scholarship Fundraiser & Night of Humor was a great success thanks to all who donated and signed in to ZOOM! For details, see Kathy Zeigenfus' report in this Newsletter.



DECEMBER: ***Don't miss our annual Holiday Gathering...in person!***

Date: Saturday, December 10th

Time: 12pm to 2pm

Venue: Linwood Library, Davis Ave. Linwood, NJ.

Free admission to members and guests! Just BRING A DISH! Call or email **Mary Lou Breidenstine: breidensti@aol.com (609) 927-1779 by December 5th**. She will let you know what we need for the potluck. Our Branch will be donating Wawa gift cards to AVANZAR (the Women's Center). Plus, *Gail and Walt Vreeland will entertain us with a humorous short skit!*

In January, we will take a break but return February to May with more enlightening, fun and exciting programs!

Membership Vice President

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

Contact information for our members can be found in the Membership Directory. This directory is accessed with the button on the Newsletter email. Anne Carson generates this list for each Newsletter. Take a look today and let Linda Karp know if your information needs to be updated at lindakarp@gmail.com.



Finance Officer

Lois Fried

loissfried@gmail.com

The balance in our Fund at the South Jersey Community Foundation was \$50,371 on November 15, 2022. This account was started with a generous donation from a member many years ago that has been increased over the years by member donations and investment results. Our board approves distributions of funds from this endowment to supplement the fundraising we do for scholarships.

The South Jersey Community Foundation houses over 60 funds that benefit South Jersey as well as causes out of the area. You can get an overview of what the Foundation does by visiting

<https://www.communityfoundationsj.org/aboutus/>.



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 occasionally "like" or post on Facebook because inactive accounts are the ones that tend to get hacked. Please post on our group page. I hope to hear from you soon.

Fundraiser Officer

Kathy Zeigenfus

kzeigenfus@aol.com

The Fundraising Committee has had a very full summer/fall season. We decided to do the Boscov's, "Friends Helping Friends" program in order to raise money for the Tutors for Educational Equity. Over \$200.00 was raised for materials for this very important and successful program. Check Virginia's report for an update. I'm sure many of our members enjoyed a day of great shopping at Boscov's.

It was difficult to make a decision about our annual Scholarship and STEM Program Fundraiser. Our committee which included Anne Carson, Carol Zerbe, Jill Slotoroff, and Linda Karp decided back in June, after much discussion, to visit with our friends Lucy, Ethel, and Louise, and have a third Zoom meeting fundraiser. Things were still uncertain about Covid, so we proceeded with the plan to present, "A Night of Humor." While developing the dialogue for the invitations, we all searched for examples of female humorists who epitomized the types of comedy we were raised with. (I just read in an article last week that it is acceptable to end a sentence with a preposition.)

Anne formatted the dialogue into the beautiful invitation with Carol's artwork. Carol and I got them printed, Jill and Linda continued to look for sketches and get gift cards, and we presented, "A Night of Humor" on Thursday, November 17. We had 21 attendees and I think everyone enjoyed the humor of Carol Burnett, Erma Bombeck, Betty White, The Golden Girls, and Lucille Ball. But, more importantly, we have had close to 40 members and friends making very generous contributions to our fundraiser. Our numbers will be available in the new year and contributions will be accepted until the end of the year. Donation details: Make your check payable to AWCO and mail to Claudine Keenan. Her address is in the directory.



Many thanks to all who have helped us in this endeavor. Jackie came to many meetings and helped us with our program. Tula guided us through the technology of producing the program and Claudine and Karen spoke with clarity and purpose about the reasons we need to continue to raise funds for scholarships and STEM. And of course, my Fundraising Committee members were a great team with which to successfully accomplish our goals. A good and successful time was had by all.

STEM

Theresa Basquez

tbasquez_86@hotmail.com



In collaboration with the Richard Stockton University's Dean of Education, Claudine Keenan, three STEM Camps are held during the year.

the local school districts.

The first STEM Camp called Tween Trek will be held on March 17th at Stockton University. This program is for middle school girls from school districts throughout Southern New Jersey for a day of hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math workshops. Each girl chooses workshops of interest to them about the many opportunities available in the STEM fields. Funding for this program is provided by

Please consider volunteering for the day to help by escorting girls to presentations, classrooms, and rest areas as needed. The girls must be chaperoned at all times. This will be for an entire "school day." Because Stockton University will be on Spring Break at this time, parking will be easy!

If you'd like to learn more or are interested in volunteering, please contact me at the email address above.

This Fall found us ramping up with our tutoring program. In the past few months, we have supported clients in passing 3 Praxis tests (so we're up to 19 tests passed in just over 2 years, if you're counting!). We are also now working with AVANZAR in tutoring for high-school equivalency for students who have had very difficult lives. Most haven't been in school for 6 or more years, but we are building relationships and now have 3 clients participating in that program. This fall, due to teacher shortages, the State of New Jersey allowed some school districts to accept teachers with Limited CEs (certificates of eligibility) to teach. It was very confusing for nearly everyone and we were able to work with teachers to help them navigate the new requirements. Essentially, a bachelor's degree is still required to get the Limited CE, but teachers can waive one of the 4 other requirements needed to teach. Those are:

- Minimum number of subject-matter course content credits;
- Minimum required grade point average (3.0);
- Minimum score on a Commissioner-approved assessment of basic skills or core competencies; or
- Passing score on New Jersey state-approved Praxis subject-matter assessments.



So, while this was a help to many, if a teacher did not achieve all other requirements, the Praxis was still required. AND, they still need to take it, but they have 5 years to do so. Many of the teachers we talked to got jobs in Atlantic County and know we are here to support them when they need to get that Praxis passed.

And in new news.....the Burlington County Branch of AAUW is very interested in starting their own TEE program and have been talking with us about how to do that. More to come on this exciting development! If you are interested in tutoring, please contact Virginia Rettig!

INTEREST GROUPS

Documentary/Short Film Group

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com



Under the leadership of Terry Dailey this group was very active until COVID. Per a member's request we met once in October and then in November in hopes of starting the group again. Carpooling can be arranged for meetings. Suggestions on watching in the future include: No Ordinary Life (about female photojournalists in the 80s and 90s), WHYY's Art of Europe, Harriet Tubman special on WHYY, Automat (documentary on the rise and fall of Horn and Hardart franchise), For all Time (commentary on women's rights), The Old Man and the Sea (follows the plot of this classic 1952 novella), The Red Balloon (fantasy film), Logorama (won Oscar for Short Film in 2009), If you Love This Planet (need for nuclear disarmament), I'll Find a Way (about a 9 year old girl with spina bifida), Waking David, The Shift and Changeover. In planning a meeting for January, the group is in need of a leader. The role would be similar to what Mary Lou Breidnstine (Book Group) or Carolyn Bassett (Travel Group) performs, coordinating members and discussion leaders. Contact Kris Baker if you are interested in leading this new group. (609-602-4467).

Explorers Group

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN DATE

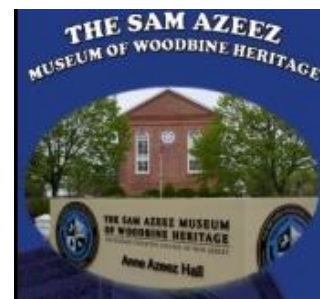
We usually meet on the 4th Friday of the month but due to the holidays we'll meet on:

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9, 2022 at 1:30 at the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine

This Museum represents 125 years of Jewish history that was created to remember and record its past while actively collecting materials to preserve its continuing heritage. Education, religion, tolerance and inclusion were values shared by the community. The synagogue building is listed on the National Register of Historic places. The private tour will last about an hour and a half. Carpooling can be arranged (contact Kris). The museum is located about 10 minutes from the Garden State Parkway (Exit 17, Sea Isle City/Woodbine).

RSVP is important so that the docent is aware of how many members plan to attend.

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



The Salon Group

Valerie Koob

vkoob@aol.com

The Salon is a new discussion group, formed from the Great Decisions group. We meet monthly to discuss a timely issue or a philosophical question. A facilitator chooses the topic and prepares questions to pose at the meeting. 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; The Emerging Adult Phase of Life; Ethics and Euthanasia; and Artificial Intelligence and Privacy.

Our next discussion will be on December 12th from 2:30-3:30 at the Margate Library. If you want to join the Salon group, or just learn more about it, please email me at VKoob@aol.com.



Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com

Thanks so much to Diana Intenzo for again leading a wonderful book club discussion on Circling the Sun, a fictional biography of the early life of the first women to fly solo across the Atlantic. Everyone enjoyed the book and were very interested in learning about the background of Beryl Markham. Strange that most of us had never heard of this accomplished woman.



Our next meeting will be on Friday December 2 at 10:00 at the home of Gail Vreeland in Egg Harbor Twp. We will watch a movie (The Snows of Kilimanjaro) and will have lunch. Bring your favorite dish and let Gail know that you plan to attend. (ggvreeland@comcast.net)

On Friday, Jan. 6 we will return to the Linwood library at 10:30. Karen Cifrese will lead a discussion of "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki.

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 will not meet in December. We will meet again on the second Thursday in January, January 13 at 1pm . We will talk about the documentary film, Descendant, available on Netflix. It tells the story of the descendants of the last slave ship to arrive in America. Last month we had a good discussion of Sherman Alexie's book "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian." This is a frequently banned book as well as giving an insight into the problems of life on the Reservation. We also talked about various legal and election issues concerning social equality.

I will send out a notice to regular attendees, but if you want to join us, let Carolyn know.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com

Are you studying Spanish on your own, perhaps by computer lessons, perhaps by watching Spanish-language TV, perhaps by reading? Come and practice speaking Spanish with us at our weekly informal conversations. There is no homework and we are patient with one another. We meet via Zoom Mondays from 4:00 to 6:00. Contact me for more information.



Ethnic CuisinesAnn-Maria Guevara
Gretchen Braunwrathamguevara@comcast.net
gretchenb66@gmail.com

Just a reminder that our annual Holiday Potluck is coming up on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at noon at Gretchen's home: 36 Caledonia Drive, Seaville. Please RSVP to me or to Gretchen and let us know what you'll be bringing. This will help us avoid duplicates and ensure a balanced meal 😊

Any questions or concerns, just give Gretchen a call: 609-478-6189 or 609-715-9860. Please send an email if you would like to be added to the list to receive updates about our outings.



Stockton Theater Ushers Group

Theresa Sartorio

theresasartorio@comcast.net



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

The AAUW have been asked by Stockton to volunteer as ushers for the Children's Theatre. The next show will be Friday, December 9th. The show is The Nutcracker: The Atlantic City Ballet. The show starts at 10:30 but I ask everyone to be there by 9:45 since the doors open at 10. We usually go to lunch after the show when it ends about noon.

If you are available to help out please let Theresa Sartorio know at theresasartorio@comcast.net. If you need more information, you can reach her at 609 965-9521 home or 609 287-0775 cell.

The travel group will not meet in December. Carolyn is looking for travelers to step up to volunteer to give a program. Let her know if you are willing to share your travel adventure.



| UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER: | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Mondays | 4:00 pm Zoom | Conversational Spanish | Jeanette Flax |
| Dec. 2 Friday | 10:00 am Egg Harbor Twp | Book Group Holiday Gathering Film: The Snows of Kilimanjaro | Mary Lou Breidenstine |
| Dec. 6 Tuesday | Noon Seaville | Ethnic Cuisine Holiday Gathering | Ann-Maria Guevara Gretchen Braunwrath |
| Dec. 9 Friday | 9:45 am Stockton Univ. | Stockton Theaters Ushers The Nutcracker | Theresa Sartorio |
| Dec. 9 Friday | 1:30 pm Woodbine | Explorers Group Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage | Kris Baker |
| Dec. 10 Saturday | 12:00 to 2pm Linwood Library | Holiday Gathering | Tula Christopoulos |
| Dec. 12 Monday | 2:30-3:30 pm Margate Library | The Salon Discussion Group | Valerie Koob |
| Jan. 6 Friday | 10:30 am Linwood Library | Book Group The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post | Mary Lou Breidenstine |
| Jan. 13 Thursday | 1:00 pm Zoom | For a More Equal Society Topic: Descendent Film | Carolyn Bassett |