

PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Members Diana Intenzo, Audrey Owen, Arlene Roller and Lucy Croneberger celebrate the holidays.

President's Message

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

Happy New Year,

And welcome to our 106th year of new monthly programming, engaging Interest Groups, and our Tutors for Educational Equity and STEM Camp community initiatives for young women.

On Saturday, March 11th from 11:30 to 2:30, we will hold our Woman of Distinction Luncheon at the Carriage House in Galloway Township. Although it's tradition to honor a woman outside our organization, this year we will honor one of our members Lynn Caterson. She has been a member and General Counsel for our Branch since 1969. As past Presidents of AAUW will tell you, Lynn has been an indispensable partner in the management of our Branch. We will also honor her significant other contributions to Atlantic County, the most recent and crucial as Commissioner of the Atlantic County Board of Elections and Chair since 2015. In mid-January, please look for the flyer providing more information regarding menu choices and how to register. Both online and registration by mail-in check will be available.

I'd like to draw your attention to the Nominating Committee's report and the 5 Board Officer positions that will be vacant starting June 1st. Although we typically don't start this process until February, 3 key positions – President and the Vice Presidents of Programming and Membership will be open. Tula Christopoulos chairs the Nominating Committee and has provided job descriptions below for each of the 5 positions. Karen Poorman and Kris Baker are members of the committee. Please reach out to them if you have any questions. There's been so much accomplished during the past 4 years despite COVID. The Board and I would like to make this transition in leadership as smooth as possible.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Jackie

“Good food and camaraderie” is the best way I can describe our December 10th Holiday Party that took place at the Linwood Library. 20 members gathered to enjoy lunch, conversation, and a game of Holiday Trivia. Our Branch donated \$250 in Wawa gift cards to Avanzar’s Homemakers Return to Work program. Some of the cards were donated by members that day with the balance covered by budgeted Branch funds. Queen of Cuisine, Mary Lou Breidenstine, organized a yummy spread of potluck options generously provided by several members. Hospitality committee members Aida and Theresa did a great job, as usual, decorating and setting up the coffee/tea station.

After a winter break in January, our first program of the year will be in February. Although our member Mary Maudsley, Esq. is not an expert in either financial or estate planning, she does have “real life” experience as an executrix of several estates and will share the pitfalls she’s encountered so that our members can avoid them. For Women’s History Month in March, we have a special event planned: Woman of Distinction. The 2023 honoree is Evelyn Caterson. Our April event will center on New Jersey’s offshore wind energy projects with speaker Monica Coffey of the NJ Economic Development Authority. We’ll end the year in May with “Speaking of Atlantic City,” a testimonial of two local woman authors on growing up in Atlantic City. Enjoy the January hiatus and look for our mid-January flier for more details about our Woman of Distinction Luncheon!

Nominations Committee Report

Tula Christopoulos

tegea222@gmail.com

Please look through and seriously consider the following positions. Offer to volunteer and support the Branch. If you yourself cannot volunteer, think about an appropriate Branch member who could fill that position. Please contact me immediately: tegea222@gmail.com or (609) 226-5827 to volunteer or to nominate a member. Time is of the essence; we need a Slate of Officers by the end of February 2023.

The President: Two-year term starting in June 2023.

- Officially represents the Branch at the local, state, and national levels.
- Presides over all Board Meetings, submitting related reports and forms as required.
- Duties are primarily administrative and include assisting in planning and communication to the Branch and as needed, with State and National.

The V.P. of Programming: Two-year term starting in June 2023.

- Primary responsibility is to chair the Program Committee and plan monthly meetings and special events.
- Member of the Executive Committee; shall assume the President’s position should the President be unable to serve.

V.P. Membership: (partial term) June 2023 to May 2024.

- Chairs the Membership Committee
- Responsible for Branch membership retention, recruitment, and orientation
- Member of the Executive Committee.

Public Policy Officer: Two-year term starting in June 2023.

- Centers on writing and submitting articles to The Newsletter about public policy issues that AAUW supports.
- Whoever takes this position can create a committee and work in conjunction with our Diversity Officer on inclusion, diversity and promoting the Branch's commitment to social equity and advancement of all women and girls.

The Public Information Officer: Two-year term starting in 2023.

- Responsible for the Branch's communications with local news organizations and Instagram messaging.
- Using Instagram is not a job requirement, but it would be helpful to our overall membership recruitment plans.

Membership Vice President

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

Due to the demands of both Membership and the Explorer's Group, at this time I cannot give attention to both groups. So, I will be stepping down as VP of Membership beginning June 1st.

My approach has been to bring new members into our Branch and for our members to have an opportunity to do interesting, informative and fun activities. The Explorer and Salon Groups started over the past year and continue to have a following. The Documentary/Movie and Evening/Weekend Group (for working women) don't have a group leader and are on hold until a member(s) volunteer to lead these Interest Groups. If you are interested in either role, contact me and I will assist you.



Kris Baker cell- 609-602-4467 or Kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

Scholarships Officer

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

The scholarship committee will meet after the Thursday, January 26th Board Meeting to determine the distribution of your donations to women pursuing higher education. Email specific suggestions to me.

Facebook

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

The Facebook group: What are you missing? Sixty-five members of our Branch are on our Facebook group: "AAUW Atlantic members." You can share pictures, opinions, announcements as well as group, meeting information and more. The group is closed to non-members.

A separate Facebook Page is open to the public.

In addition to the generous support of our annual scholarship and STEM Camp fundraiser, and our Tutors for Educational Equity program, many of our members also donate additional money to our National organization in support of AAUW's advocacy and lobbying activities. One such example is the recent passage of the Pregnant Woman Fairness Act. Through November 2023, members of our Branch donated \$1,300. Thank you!

During our November Fundraiser we gave out several gift cards and a basket of cheer because of contributions of some local businesses. When making purchases or choosing a restaurant, please give consideration to Tailgaters in Egg Harbor City, Doc's Place in Somers Point, Carangi's in Northfield, and Circle Liquor in Somers Point.

The following information is reprinted from the AAUW State Newsletter.



Tech Trek Camp will be in-person July 2023 at Stockton University

You are needed!! Volunteering with Tech Trek is a great way to get involved in helping middle school girls discover their potential in STEM. Tech Trek is staffed almost entirely by volunteers and couldn't be done without volunteer efforts. All overnight and multi-day volunteers receive reimbursement for obtaining required clearance, complimentary room and board on campus, and a modest stipend

How can you help? Here is a list of volunteer positions needed to be filled. Please go to: <https://techtrek-nj.aauw.net/> to learn what each position does and the form to complete to become a volunteer:

Selection Committee Member
Dorm Leader*
Workshop Presenter
Snack Donor*

Fundraising and Grant Writing
Camp Day Counselor*
One Day Volunteer*
Professional Women's Mentor*

* Multiple volunteers needed in these roles

Gratefully,

Linda Harmon, AAUW NJ STEM Director
Megan Hooper, Camp Director
Claudine Keenan, Asst Camp Director and Stockton University Liaison
Jackie McGuiness, Coordinator of Volunteers



**One-day, interactive STEM programs
for high school and middle school girls.**

Tween Tech and Teentech programs can be conducted throughout the State, where there is a collaboration with a college/university and a local branch. This year, Teentech a one-day, interactive STEM program for high school girls will be conducted at Essex County College. Tween Tech the program for middle school girls will be held at Stockton University. **If interested in volunteering to help out with either program, please email Linda Harmon, NJ STEM Director linda.harmon@gmail.com**

Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

rettigva@yahoo.com

Tutors for Educational Equity is always looking for tutors. Contact Virginia Rettig if you are interested!

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).**



Friday January 27 at 1:30: We will be visiting the Eternal Gandhi Peace Center and Museum at the Tanger Outlets (located next to the Adidas store) in Atlantic City which opened in November. This is the first museum in the US dedicated to recounting Mahatma Gandhi's life. The museum's goal is to promote peace and conflict resolution especially in Atlantic City. Ren Parikh Director will give a private tour to our group.

RSVP if you plan to attend so that you receive updates on the private tour closer to the January date.



Friday February 24 at 1:30: This month's visit is to the new PlaneWave CDK17 telescope at the Stockton University Campus in Galloway (Harold E. Taylor Observatory). Physics Professor Joseph Trout will give a tour and talk on how the new telescope is much easier to operate and the quality of the image is better. It has a better system for navigating the stars and the ability to see things that are farther away and less bright.

Friday March 24 at 1:30: In Egg Harbor City is the little known Roundhouse Museum, located at 533 London Ave. We will learn about the German heritage of that city and their wine, boat and clothing industries. The building is the last remaining building of Dr. Smith's Neutral Waters Health Spa (a spa in EHC!!!) built about 1905. A former "vapor house", it is on the state and National Registers of Historic Places. If it is a nice day, members can go for a 2 mile walk at Peace Pilgrim Park after the tour which is located across the street from the museum.



Kris Baker cell- 609-602-4467 or by email.

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!

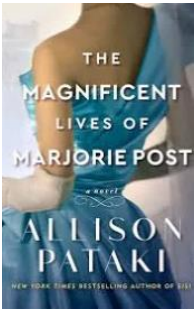
Past topics have included: An America Divided; The Battle Over Transgender Therapy; The Emerging Adult Phase of Life; Ethics and Euthanasia; and Artificial Intelligence and Privacy.



Our discussions are held the second Monday of the month, from 2:30-3:30 at the Margate Library. Upcoming dates are January 9, February 13, and March 13. We will not meet in April or May. If you want to join the Salon group, or just learn more about it, please email me at VKoob@aol.com.

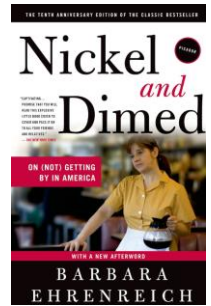
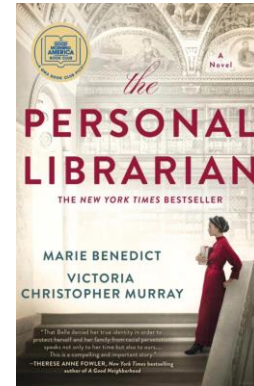
*** Be sure to check your Email for Program Flyers and Information***

Jan 15 Sunday	Via Email	Look for Program Flyer for Women of Distinction Luncheon	Tula Christopoulos
Feb 1 Wed	Via Email	Look for Program Flyer for Mary Maudsley Presentation	Tula Christopoulos



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. The book for February 3 is "Nickel and Dime" by Barbara Ehrenreich; this is a change. Our March 10 gathering will feature "Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict.

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.



Foreign Policy Discussion Group

Lynne Walters

rrwalters321@hotmail.com

Prepare to discuss the world with us. Great Decisions is America's largest discussion group on world affairs. The program involves reading a chapter in the Great Decisions Briefing Book, meeting with the group to watch the documentary film series, then discussing the most critical global issues facing America today.

The topics to be discussed include: Energy Geopolitics, War Crimes, China and the U.S., Economic Warfare, Politics in Latin America, Global Famine, Iran at a Crossroads, and Climate Migration.

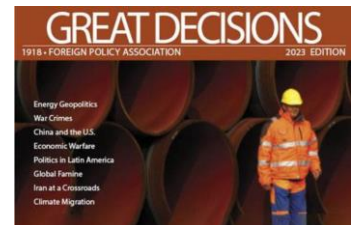
All programs will begin at 2:30 pm. The dates for the 90 minute programs are:

April 3, 10, 17

May 1, 8, 15

June 5, 12

The meetings will take place at the Margate Library at 8100 Atlantic Ave. in Margate. The cost for the briefing book is \$35. We are pleased that the library will provide the meeting space and the additional costs of the program. Please email Lynne Walters at: rrwalters321@hotmail.com if you would like to be a participant in the program. Names will be added to a list in the order received. You will be contacted with further information for picking up your book prior to the first meeting.



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.

Our Zoom meetings continue Mondays from 4:00 to 6:00. We help one another to maintain and improve our fluency as we discuss travel, family life, international news, and language learning experiences. Our goals are to support everyone's efforts and not to speak any language except Spanish! Please contact me if you'd like to join us.



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

Ethnic Cuisine will continue to gather. 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

There is a performance of Dear Esther by Richard Rashke on March 7 at 10:30 am. 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.

There will be two more performances in the spring, in April and May.

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.

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com



The Hawaiian Island of Oahu will be the topic on Wednesday, January 25 at 1pm. Theresa Basquez just returned from a visit there during which she stayed at Waikiki Beach. Theresa will tell us about all the fascinating things she did and learned during her time there. Please let Carolyn know if you'd like to get a link for this program on ZOOM.

Please note, the next issue of the AAUW newsletter will be sent via email on March 1, 2023.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays	4:00 pm Zoom	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
Jan. 6 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	Book Group The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Jan 9 Monday	2:30 pm Margate Library	The Salon Group	Valarie Koob
Jan. 13 Thursday	1:00 pm Zoom	For a More Equal Society Topic: Descendent Film	Carolyn Bassett
Jan 15 Sunday	Via Email	Look for Program Flyer for Women of Distinction Luncheon	Tula Christopoulos
Jan 25 Wednesday	1 pm Zoom	Travel Group Oahu	Carolyn Bassett
Jan 26 Thursday	7pm via Zoom	Board Meeting	Jackie Shelley-Tassoff
Jan 27 Friday	1:30 pm Atlantic City	Explorer's Group Eternal Gandhi Peace Center and Museum	Kris Baker
Feb 1 Wed	Via Email	Look for Program Flyer for Mary Maudsley Presentation	Tula Christopoulos
Feb 3 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	Book Group Nickel and Dimed	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Feb 13 Monday	2:30 pm Margate Library	The Salon Group	Valarie Koob
Feb 21	RSVP Deadline	Register for Women of Distinction Luncheon	Lisa Goodwin
Feb 24 Friday	1:30 pm Stockton Observatory	Explorer's Group PlaneWave CDK17 telescope	Kris Baker
March 7 Tuesday	10:00 am Stockton PAC	Stockton Children's Theater Ushers Dear Ester	Theresa Sartorio
March 10 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	Book Group The Personal Librarian	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Mar 11 Saturday	11:30-2:30	Women of Distinction Luncheon Carriage House Galloway	Tula Christopoulos
Mar 13 Monday	2:30 pm Margate Library	The Salon Group	Valarie Koob
Mar 24 Friday	1:30 pm Egg Harbor City	Explorer's Group Roundhouse Museum	Kris Baker
April 18 Tuesday	All Day Stockton Univ.	TweenTech	Linda Harmon

Spring	All Day Essex CC	TeenTech	Linda Harmon
Apr 3, 10, 17 Mondays	2:30 pm Margate Library	Foreign Policy Discussion Group	Lynne Walters
May 1, 8, 15 Mondays	2:30 pm Margate Library	Foreign Policy Discussion Group	Lynne Walters
Jun 5, 12 Mondays	2:30 pm Margate Library	Foreign Policy Discussion Group	Lynne Walters
July 23-29	All Day Stockton Univ.	Tech Trek	Theresa Basquez