

PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS

"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THE GOOD YOU DO"



President's Message

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

Dear Friends,

We start Women's History Month by celebrating our AAUW Explorers Interest Group led by Kris Baker. After exploring several interesting places in South Jersey, they turned their sights, via the Hal Taylor Observatory at Stockton University, to the stars. Their host, Professor Joseph J. Trout, PhD, wrote in an email to Kris:

"My students and I often volunteer at your Teen Tech, Tween Tech, and Tech Trek (STEM programs), and it was great to meet the women behind these events. The work you do means a lot to the young women who attend these events, and who knows, you may just be hosting an upcoming Noble Prize winner."

Since 1917, 53 women have been President of our Branch. Each shared their unique skills and interests in support of equity for women through education. As an example, it was past President Linda Harmon's experience as an educator that informed her commitment to support and maintain STEM programs for New Jersey girls.

Beginning on June 1st a new president or two co-presidents will share their talents to the benefit of AAUW-AC. Currently, 25% of NJ AAUW Branches have co-presidencies. I think this is a viable option and the Nominating Committee continues to search for our next president(s), someone who's willing to explore new ways of engaging our membership and serving our community with a strong team of dedicated women working with them.

Yours truly,

Jackie

Program Vice President

Tula Christopoulos

tegea222@gmail.com

On February 15th, our first meeting of 2023 via ZOOM, Mary Maudsley took us through the “The Twists and Turns of Being an Executrix of a Will.” Using personal experiences as a springboard, she guided us through some of what she described as the “slings and arrows, sturm und drang” that often accompany an executor’s responsibility. It was a valuable cautionary tale she told and an engaging kick-off to 2023.

This year, Women’s History Month is especially meaningful to AAUW-AC members as we honor member Evelynn Catterson as our Woman of Distinction. We hope to see you all at the Carriage House in Galloway on Saturday, March 11th at 11:30am to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of this individual we are so proud and fortunate to have in our midst.

And, while you’re at it, mark your calendars for April 19th when we invite you to the Linwood Library where Monica Coffey of the NJ Economic Development Authority will inform us about New Jersey’s offshore wind energy projects.

Nominations Committee Report

Tula Christopoulos

tegea222@gmail.com

As President Jackie just shared in her message, we need either one or two individuals as President(s) to lead the Atlantic County Branch into the next two-year term, beginning on June 1, 2023. (I apologize for the incorrect date in the Nominations appeal sent Friday, February 18th.) Please take the challenge and expand your own leadership skills while moving the Branch forward.

On February 28th, the Board approved the following slate of officers for election on April 19th during our annual meeting: Shelley Cohen Program VP, Arlene Groch Public Policy Officer, Pam Tyson Public Information Officer, Kathy Zeigenfus Fundraising Officer, and Sharone Brown-Jackson Diversity Officer.

I want to thank the Nominations Committee members, Kris Baker and Karen Poorman, for their willingness to serve on the committee and for the productive brainstorming sessions. Working as a team, we came up with solutions to potential obstacles. Waiting and hoping for a response from one or two members to help us complete the 2023-2025 Election Slate.

Membership Vice President

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

The National AAUW membership list has the Atlantic County chapter listed as having 119 members as of February 20. Please note: On the email you received for this newsletter the button labeled Membership Directory lists all members of our Branch with their address, phone number and email.

Any questions? Call Kris Baker cell- 609-602-4467 or Kristinabaker2014@gmail.com



Scholarships Officer

Karen Poorman

Karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

The scholarship committee met, and the Board approved on February 28th two \$2,000 scholarships to Atlantic Cape Community College and one \$3,000 scholarship to The Richard Stockton University. The members of the committee are Karen Poorman, Stella Hordes, Joan Vicari, Sharone Brown-Jackson, Lois Fried, Beverly Schechtman and Nancy Rubin.

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.

Fundraiser Officer

Kathy Zeigenfus

kzeigenfus@aol.com



Spring is in the air and a whole new year of enriching, intellectual, and fun activities await us as fortunate members of AAUW. As the chairperson of the Fundraising Committee, I need to reflect on our Scholarship Fundraiser from the fall of 2022. We were faced with our third year of a Zoom presentation instead of a lovely, collegial, socially inviting event—a luncheon. We presented, "An Evening of Humor," had some good laughs from viewing some of our finest female humorists, and through your tremendous generosity, raised \$8155.00 for scholarships and our summer Tech Trek program. Over \$5,000.00 will go towards scholarships and over \$3,000.00 towards our fabulous Tech Trek. Thank you for continuing to support these valuable projects. Our hope is to plan an in person event with food and drinks along with an exceptional program this fall.

We will be receiving Boscov's Friends Helping Friends coupons earlier this year, hopefully in July. Your \$5.00 contribution will allow you to shop until you drop at Boscov's one day in October with fabulous discounts. All proceeds will go to our Tutors for Educational Equity Program which helps college students to prepare for the Praxis tests. Think about buying more than one to share with family and friends, knowing that they will all have the opportunity to get a jump on holiday shopping while you will be contributing to our tutoring program.

STEM

Theresa Basquez

tbasquez_86@hotmail.com



A big THANK YOU to the members who have volunteered to support our STEM Program, Tween Tech, for middle school girls on Friday, March 17th at Stockton University - **but three more volunteers are needed!** This one-day interactive program promotes the understanding of available careers in the sciences. Volunteers are needed to chaperone the girls to and from workshops and events. Come spend the day - arrive between 8:00-8:45 am and depart about 2:00 pm - and attend some really interesting workshops with the girls. Without your support, this event would not be possible, and your presence is greatly appreciated. The added benefit is - it's fun!

Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

rettigva@yahoo.com



The new year started with five new clients seeking support to pass the state-required standardized Praxis tests. All of our available tutors are working with clients on a variety of tests, including Core Math, Reading, and Writing, and we also help out with next-level tests (Science test-takers often need a little refresher). To date, we have helped teachers pass 25 tests and we have helped 8 people get full-time teaching jobs! If you'd like to learn more about our program, contact Virginia at 609/408-2065 or rettigva@yahoo.com



AAUW's Public Policy Priorities, adopted every two years by every-member vote, establish the federal action issues on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts and guide the work of the national staff. States and branches may use the Public Policy Priorities to inform their advocacy efforts on state and local issues.

Current Biennial Action priorities include public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and economic security for all women. To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates through letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs to the 118th Congress. These documents can be viewed at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

Further information can be gained by linking to LegiScan (<https://legiscan.com/>) which provides current details on pending bills and national legislation in all fifty states. You may select a particular state, the US Congress, or search a bill number.

Sources: AAUW.org Public Policy

General Interest

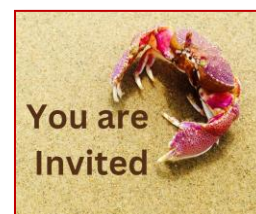
Cape May Program

Joan Vicari

jbvicari@yahoo.com

Consider joining the Cape May County Chapter in Ocean City on Thursday, March 16

- 11:30am - Lunch at Emily's Ocean Room Restaurant in the historic Flanders Hotel at 719 E. 11th Street, (1st floor easily accessible) - order from the breakfast or lunch menu, individual checks
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm - Meet at the Ocean City Historical Museum for a guided tour (ramp at Simpson Ave. entrance)
- 2:00pm - 3:00pm - Tour the Ocean City Arts Center (above the museum- elevator available) "Centering" Symbolic imagery on clay plates by Elizabeth Ohlson will be the featured exhibit.



Please RSVP to Joan Vicari if you are coming lunch, the tours, or both: jbvicari@yahoo.com

INTEREST GROUPS

Documentary/Short Film Group

Jean Mason

Jeanmariemason54@gmail.com



The Documentary/Film Group It's Starting Again - March 6, 2023!

When: 1st Monday of every month (March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, Break for Summer)

Where: Linwood Library- 301 Davis Ave., Linwood, NJ

Time: 1:00 PM

Organizer: Jeanmarie (Jean) Mason, jeanmariemason54@gmail.com 610-761-3106

First Movie: The Sound of My Voice: Linda Ronstadt. Official Trailer: [YouTube Link](#)

For the first movie, we will watch together, discuss and have snacks. We can discuss the next film and if we want to watch in person or watch before we meet. See you then! Please RSVP at jeanmariemason54@gmail.com.

Explorers Group

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

The group meets once a month on the 4th Friday at 1:30 at a local interesting and informative location.

In January, the group visited the Gandhi Peace Center and Museum in Atlantic City for a private tour hosted by three members of the center. On February 24, we visited the Harold E. Taylor Observatory at Stockton University in Galloway to see the new telescope. An explanation was given by Physics professor Joseph Trout.

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. There is parking available, carpooling can be arranged and the museum is wheelchair accessible. There is no cost for the tour. This tour was arranged by Lorraine Stoughton, a member of the group. Afterwards, for those interested there is a Mayor's Walk that is 2 miles long. The Peace Pilgrim Park is located across the street from the museum.



April 28 - Aircraft Stimulator presentation
Stockton - Theresa Basquez
May 26 - African American Museum and
Noyes Arts Garage - Joan Vicari
June 23 - Drone presentation at Stockton
Theresa Basquez

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

The Salon Group

Valerie Koob

vkoob@aol.com

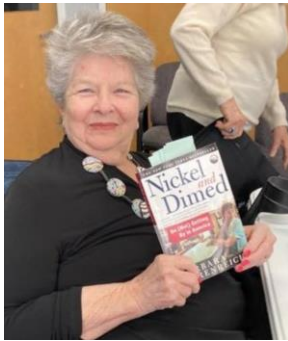
The Salon is a newer discussion group, formed from AAUW's Great Decisions group. We meet monthly to discuss a timely issue or a philosophical question. A facilitator chooses the topic and prepares questions to pose at the meeting. There are no right or wrong answers, and we are not searching for a consensus. The discussion is the point!



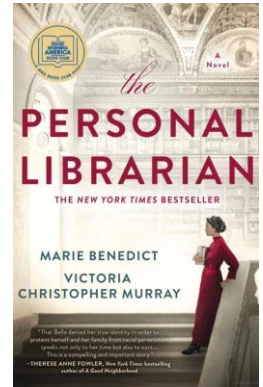
Past topics have included: An America Divided; The Battle Over Transgender Therapy; The Emerging Adult Phase of Life; Ethics and Euthanasia; Artificial Intelligence and Privacy; Growing Old in America; Near Death Experiences; and Immigration in the US.

Our discussions are held the second Monday of the month, from 2:30-3:30 at the Margate Library. Our next meeting date is March 13. FYI, we will not meet in April, May, or June when the Great Decisions group will be meeting. If you want to join the Salon group, or just learn more about it, please email me at VKoob@aol.com.

Our March 10 gathering will feature "Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict at the Linwood Library. The co-author of Personal Librarian is Victoria Christopher Murray. After reading Murray's book "Stand Your Ground," author Marie Benedict felt that she had the perfect partner to tell the story of Belle da Costa Greene, personal librarian to J.P. Morgan. Greene, who became the Director of the Morgan Librarian was African American and hid her racial identity. The novel tells her story of the development of the Morgan Library and her friendship with the founder, J. P. Morgan. The authors became not only co-writers, but friends. Benedict is white and Murray is black. The book group will meet at 10:30 am. In February, a lively discussion was lead by Arlene Groch on "Nickel and Dime." On April 14 Shelley Cohen will lead the discussion of The Netanyahu's by Josh Cohen.



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.

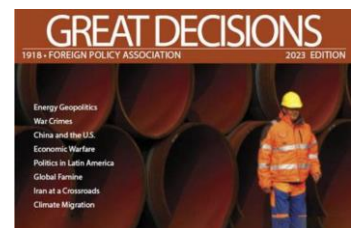
The topics to be discussed include: Energy Geopolitics, War Crimes, China and the U.S., Economic Warfare, Politics in Latin America, Global Famine, Iran at a Crossroads, and Climate Migration.

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.

The cost of the briefing book is \$35.

We still have room for a few more participants. If you are interested, please email Lynne Walters at rrwalters321@hotmail.com.

For a More Equal Society will meet at the home of Arlene Groch in Northfield on March 9 at 1 pm. We will be continuing our discussion of reparations that we started in February, and we are asking members to bring issues from Atlantic County to investigate. We plan to order sandwiches, so we need to know who is coming. We will be ordering from the menu of Carangi's cafe: <https://carangiscafe.com/>. Please get in touch with Carolyn if you plan to come - she can give you directions to Arlene's and bring you up to date if you missed the last meeting. We expect some of our members from Ocean County to join us.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com

Continuing our meetings on Zoom has turned out to be very convenient! We practice our Spanish while walking the treadmill, watching a sunset, or chopping vegetables, and we don't have to leave home. We can also include participants who are traveling or working abroad. We discuss our trips, our families, our books, and improve our fluency. We meet every Monday from 4:00 to 6:00. Consider joining us!



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

Many thanks to all of you who came out for our February lunch at George's Place in Cape May Court House. The food was excellent, and the portions were HUGE! Most of us took some home for dinner - always a plus. Our next lunch will be at Maharajah Restaurant in EHT on Thursday, Mar. 16 at noon.

Here is the website: <https://www.maharajarestaurantnj.com/>

Please visit the site ahead of time to familiarize yourself with the many exotic Indian offerings.

RSVP to me only, as Gretchen will be away for much of March.

Hope to see you all there! Ann-Maria



Stockton Theater Ushers Group

Theresa Sartorio

theresasartorio@comcast.net



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 please let Theresa Sartorio know.

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com



Theresa Basquez took us on an information-filled tour of Hawaii in January. For March, Bonnie Warwick will guide us around Japan which she visited pre-Covid with Overseas Adventure Travel. Bonnie is a world traveler and has presented several of her trips before when we were meeting in person. On Wednesday, March 8 at 1pm on ZOOM Bonnie will lead us on a tour of Japan. Please let Carolyn know if you'd like to get a link.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:			
Mondays	4:00 pm Zoom	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
March 6 Monday	1:00 pm Linwood Library	Short Film/Documentary Group The Sound of my Voice: Linda Ronstadt	Jean Mason
March 7 Tuesday	10:00 am Stockton PAC	Stockton Children's Theater Ushers Dear Ester	Theresa Sartorio
March 8 Thursday	1:00 pm via Zoom	Travel Group Japan	Carolyn Bassett
March 9 Friday	1:00 pm Northfield	For a More Equal Society	Carolyn Bassett
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 16 Thursday	Noon EHT	Ethnic Luncheon Group Maharaja Restaurant	Ann-Maria Guevara
Mar 16 Thursday	11:30 am Ocean City	Cape May Branch Program and Lunch Flanders Hotel, Historical Museum & Arts Center	Joan Vicari
March 17 Friday	All Day Stockton Univ.	Tween Tech STEM Program for middle school girls	Theresa Basquez
Mar 24 Friday	1:30 pm Egg Harbor City	Explorer's Group Roundhouse Museum	Kris Baker
Apr 3, 10, 17 Mondays	2:30 pm Margate Library	Foreign Policy Discussion Group	Lynne Walters
April 19 Wednesday	TBD Linwood Library	Program Meeting Offshore Wind Projects and Annual Meeting – Election of Board Officers	Tula Christopoulos
July 23-29	All Day Stockton Univ.	Tech Trek STEM Camp at Stockton University for high school girls	Theresa Basquez