

PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS

MEET OUR NEW CO-PRESIDENTS



Jean McAlister



Shelly Meyers

President's Message

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff




jacalyn_shelley2003@yahoo.com

Dear Friends,

It's my pleasure to welcome our new Co-Presidents: Jean McAllister for Programing and Community Partnerships and Shelly Meyers for Membership and Finance effective June 1st, 2023. Jean, Chief of Staff and Chief Advancement Officer at Atlantic Cape, has been a member since 2015 concentrating her efforts on our STEM programs for teenage girls.

Shelly Meyers, Professor Emerita in Education, taught at Stockton University for many years. She first joined our Branch in 2019 as Program VP. We're grateful to have her back to help continue the membership initiatives we've begun during the past two years.

Meet our other new Board Officers for 2023-2025:

		
Shelley Cohen VP Programing	Pam Tyson Public Information Officer	Arlene Groch Public Policy Officer

Kathy Zeigenfus, Fundraising Officer, and Sharone Brown-Jackson, Diversity Officer, were re-elected for a second term.

My thanks to Tula Christopoulos, Jenine Brown and Janet Yunghans for all their work and support!

We've accomplished so much together during this past year.

- ✚ Created new Interest Groups – The Salon, Explorer’s Group & Movie Documentaries
- ✚ Held seven programs this year ranging from a visit to the Alice Paul Institute to learning about the NJ Economic Development Authority for offshore wind energy projects. Our highest attendance was 44 at our Woman of Distinction & Women’s History Month luncheon.
- ✚ Partnered with other Atlantic County Organizations –Children’s Theater Partnership with Stockton University, AVANZAR (Atlantic County Women’s Center) & the Atlantic County Collaborative for Educational Equity.
- ✚ Tutors for Educational Equity (TEE) helped teachers pass 25 tests and 12 people were hired as full-time teachers. This would not have been possible without the support of two grants totaling \$1,750 from the AAUW-NJ Charitable Trust. And your contributions of over \$600 that launched this important initiative.
- ✚ Members volunteered to staff both the July STEM Camp for high school teenagers and the March workshop for middle school girls both held at Stockton University.
- ✚ Raised over \$9,400 to fund college scholarships for students in Southern New Jersey and for New Jersey teenage girls attending STEM summer camp at Stockton University.
- ✚ Ten new members joined us from last July through this April. At 122 members, we are the largest Branch in the State of NJ.
- ✚ Created a Membership Brochure to advertise all that an AAUW Atlantic County Branch membership offers.

I’m sincerely grateful to all the Board Officers and our Interest Group leaders for their diligent work on behalf of our Branch. With their leadership efforts and the efforts of all of our members, our Branch is a vibrant community of lifelong learners who believe promoting equity in education for girls and women is an important mission.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge Anne Carson, our Digital Editor, for her unfailing work without which the publication and updating of our website, "rush emails," Membership Directory and Newsletters wouldn't be possible.

With warm regards,

Jackie

Program Vice President

Tula Christopoulos

tegea222@gmail.com

On Saturday, March 11th, we celebrated an accomplished, lifetime AAUW-AC member: Lynn Caterson, our 2023 Woman of Distinction! The Carriage House served as an elegant backdrop and included a wonderful menu. There were 85 attendees, including Atlantic County officials, local celebrities and Lynn's family and friends. I am happy to report that we received much positive feedback. Congratulations, Lynn. Well-deserved!



On Wednesday, April 19th at the Linwood Library, Monica Coffey of the NJ



Economic Development Authority, updated the membership on the state of NJ's current offshore wind projects for what has become our annual meeting on climate change. With over 40 attendees, it was the best turnout since the start of the pandemic. President Jackie also introduced the new slate of officers, declared by acclamation. A special "Thank You" goes out to Mary Lou Breidenstine and the Hospitality Committee, Theresa Sartorio and Aida Colón, for setting up a welcoming coffee and dessert station.

Mark your calendars for the 7pm Wednesday, May 17th program at the Linwood Library for: Speaking of Atlantic City; Recollections and Memories. Enjoy a light Atlantic City-style dinner at 6pm followed by some entertaining local literary culture at 7pm. Admission is \$10 to defray the cost of the meal. Also, on the program: The installation of the newly-elected officers. Look for our flyer with more details!

My time in office as V.P., Programming is just about up. I want to sincerely thank the hard-working Program Committee for the creative brainstorming and interesting ideas so many of them came up with the past two years. I'll continue to assist where needed, but with Shelley Cohen at the helm, you are in for some interesting, educational and thoughtful programs in the very near future! A special thank you goes to President Jackie Shelley-Tasoff for her support, patience, and mentoring.

Membership Vice President

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

Please welcome our new members:

- Nicola Tasoff of Mays Landing
- Shelly Meyers of Linwood (reactivated her membership)
- Meryl Rodgers of Northfield
- Dorothy Allison of Egg Harbor Township

We honored Pamela Family during our April Annual Meeting for her 50-years of active membership in our Interest Groups and she served as our President.

There has been discussion about starting a new interest group for members who work Monday to Friday from 9 to 5. If you are interested in this new group, contact me for details: cell- 609-602-4467 or email.



The balance in our Fund at the South Jersey Community Foundation 501 (c) 3 was \$51,492.40 on December 31, 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. In addition to your support for our fundraising projects that annually fund STEM camp and scholarships, you may also make an investment to support the scholars of the future by donating to this Fund.

If you'd like to make a tax deductible donation to further support our scholarship fundraising efforts, you can make a credit card donation from the Home Page (<https://www.communityfoundationsj.org/>) by clicking on DONATE, then credit card processing.

Our Fund is identified as the American Association of University Women, Atlantic County.

If you want to make a donation to our Fund by check, make the check payable to American Association of University Women, Atlantic County and mail it to:

Community Foundation of South Jersey
PO Box 446
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Facebook

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

Our Facebook group and page and the difference:

AAUW Atlantic Members is the closed GROUP where our members post pictures of branch meetings, club meetings, opinions, announcements, reminders about events and more. Sixty seven of our branch members are members of the closed group. It is not open to the general public. Members can post. To join this group, click on the name and it will present a question that must be answered ("Are you a member of AAUW Atlantic or AAUW Cape May?"). Anything from the closed group is not sharable.

The AAUW Atlantic County Branch PAGE can be accessed by the general public and has 273 followers. You can see it in your feed by hitting "like." The public and members can post on that page. Names of members and pictures of minors should not be on the open page unless we have permission from the person who is being named.

Fundraiser Officer

Kathy Zeigenfus

kzeigenfus@aol.com

Our Woman of Distinction Luncheon honoring Lynn Caterson, our member and our attorney, raised a total of \$712 for scholarships to Southern NJ Colleges and Universities and \$712 for our summer STEM Camp.

Thank you Program Committee members and Lisa Goodwin, Event Coordinator, for making this celebration of Lynn's service to our Branch and community a success!



The Fundraising Committee has been overwhelmed by the generosity of our members and friends during the last three November Zoom presentations. We were able to present scholarships and contributions to our summer TECH TREK STEM camp at the \$7,000-\$8,000 level each of the three years. This was incredible to us and we are certain that your generosity will sustain these amounts with the return of a luncheon and program. We must thank our dear television friends, Lucy Ricardo, Ethel Mertz, and Louise Jefferson, for motivating us, with humor, to being as generous as possible in our fundraising efforts. Our committee which includes Carol Zerbe, Anne Carson, Jill Slotoroff, Linda Karp, and me will soon be meeting to begin plans for the 2023 event. If any of you are interested in joining us, please contact me. (609-457-5245)

We will again be selling the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends coupons for \$5.00 apiece. This project will begin this summer and will benefit our tutoring program.

Enjoy the lovely spring weather. We know that summer is right around the corner. Happiness and good health to all of you, my special AAUW friends.

STEM

Theresa Basquez

tbasquez_86@hotmail.com



Sixty-five seventh-grade girls from local schools participated in our **Tween Tech** at Stockton on March 17th! They participated in two workshops, with lunch in between. They explored the sciences through workshops in Beekeeping, The Great Plankton Race, Broadcast Technology Overview, Coding Your Sphero Robot, CSI, Lasers and Lissajous Figures, Food Chemistry, Modular Origami, Sap to Syrup (see photo, left, with Kathy Zeigenfus), and a STEM Challenge Lab.

A big thank you to our members who sponsor the event, and to those

Atlantic County members who participated in chaperoning the girls: Kristina Baker, Carolyn Bassett, Terry Dailey, Kathy Ghanavati, Virginia Rettig, Joan Vicari, and Kathy Zeigenfus; and thanks to AAUW members who supported the event: AAUW NJ President Karen Brown, Karen Brundage-Johnson, Stephanie Falana, Linda Harmon and Becky Strickland.



Next up - Tech Trek Camp 2023 at Stockton! Thirty-five girls from throughout the State will arrive at Stockton on July 23rd for a week of STEM workshops, teamwork and camaraderie. Three of the girls will be from Atlantic County. Many thanks to Kristina Baker, Tula Christopoulos, Kathy Ghanavati, Virginia Rettig, and Kathy Zeigenfus, who formed teams to interview the candidates and determine the girls' suitability to attend.

Many more volunteers will be needed to staff Tech Trek each day during the week of July 23-29. Most duties include escorting the campers to workshops and helping in the classroom to conduct activities as needed. Please check your schedules and volunteer for as many days/hours that you can spare. Email me at the address above and let me know if you're interested in volunteering. We can work out scheduling later. You make Tech Trek possible! Thank you.

Professional Women's Night at Tech Trek: We are just a few months away from our Tech Trek Camp at Stockton - in person! I am looking for a few ladies to be Moderators at our Professional Women's Night (PWN). One of the key components of PWN is speed-networking after a lovely sit-down dinner. We have a few women in STEM fields at each table that share career information with campers, we then change tables 2 times for an opportunity for campers to talk with more professional women. We have a Moderator at each table (no STEM background required), to help keep the conversation going and ensure each table discussion is balanced. The event is Thursday, July 27 in the evening (5:30/6ish). Would you like to help? Contact Virginia Rettig at rettigva@yahoo.com.

AAUW Atlantic County Branch members have been volunteering for over 3 years to support our wonderful partner, Atlantic County Collaborative for Educational Equity. Since our beginning, we have helped teachers pass 27 required standardized tests to be certified to be teachers in the State of New Jersey. We have helped about a dozen teachers get their certification to be full-fledged teachers! Our progress is steady and support from our AAUW members makes this work possible! Contact Virginia Rettig at rettigva@yahoo.com if you would like more information.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Karp

lindakarp@gmail.com

Current Balance of our checking account is: \$7,482.30.

Renewal reminders began a week ago for members whose membership expires through July.

This year's National dues is \$72, of which \$69 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. The remaining \$3 is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 501(c)4 Capitol Hill Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities. Your total dues will be \$72 + state dues of \$10 + branch dues of \$10 = \$92. For those of you who are dual branch members, another \$10 will be due.

If your membership expires in August & September, you will receive your first reminder email in June. And memberships that expire in October through December will be sent their first reminder email in August. In total, each member will receive 3 reminder notices.

- I've just renewed my membership online and I encourage anyone who is comfortable renewing your membership online using the link provided in the email.
- For those who wish to self-renew online the reminder emails contain login instructions and steps to do so.
- For those who prefer to pay by check, the reminder email will ask you to make your check payable to your AAUW branch and mail it to the branch's preferred address, which is:

Linda Karp
236 Cambridge Avenue
Linwood, NJ 08221

We hope you'll join us for another exciting year!

Items of Special Interest

Fundraiser for a Salem Community College scholarship in Scientific Glassblowing

Last year AAUW allocated some of the funds raised for scholarships to Salem County Community College to allow a young woman to acquire skills as a scientific glassblower, a vital requirement for medical research and a career that's both stable and well-paying (and with few qualified women).

This year the scholarship committee voted that scholarship recipients should come from Atlantic or Cape May County. Since no female applicant for this program hails from either county, the scholarship money raised to date cannot help fund the education of a woman in the glassblowing program.

However, some of our members want AAUW's support to continue and have pledged the seed money for a scholarship for the next school year. If you would like to join them, please send your donation made out to AWCO to Kris Rudisill, Treasurer 571 Holly Brook Drive, Galloway, NJ 08205. Anyone who goes this extra mile will be invited to a celebratory event over the summer hosted by Lois Fried and Nancy Rubin. We will also invite our sister members in Salem County to join in this effort.

Our members who visited the school last year were impressed by the program, which is the only accredited scientific glass program in the US, attracting students from around the world. As important was the recognition and



appreciation of AAUW's support. Thank you in advance for your role in giving a young woman skills that could be life-changing.

Board Approved Donation of \$250 to The Friends of Linwood Library

Mary Lou Breidenstine requested this donation on behalf of the library where we hold several Interest Group meetings and monthly Programs. The money will be used to help the library update the TV in the Senior Citizens Room.

INTEREST GROUPS

Documentary/Short Film Group

Jean Mason

Jeanmariemason54@gmail.com



It was a pleasure to meet all of you during the start up of the Film Group during the months of March, April and May. **Our last Film group in June at the Linwood Library** will be a film and my story of my journey with Metastatic Breast Cancer. It has been wonderful to meet all of you and to engage in some fascinating conversations taking us back to the music of the 60s and 70s. We will continue to meet at the Linwood Library beginning in September.

Let's enjoy the Summer on the Beach and Boardwalk. We have been meeting the first Monday of the month but I realize there have been some other groups meeting on Mondays. So, I will be sending out a survey again to the Film group members to determine the best day for everyone. I will check with the Library and look at my schedule as well. I will make sure to let everyone know of the new day and time starting in September.

I hope to meet more of you at the monthly Film Group and hope to remember your name. If you would like me to put you on my AAUW Film Group email list, just email me at jeanmariemason54@gmail.com.

Have a wonderful Summer. Hopefully, I will see you in June for our last meeting of the year.

Explorers Group

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

Important Notice: the Explorer Group will be meeting on the second Friday of each month.

May 12 at 1:30 Learn more about wind turbines and stand under one! We will be visiting the ACUA Wastewater Treatment Facility 1801 Absecon Blvd. Atlantic City. We will have a one-hour docent tour to learn how the ACUA makes use of renewable energy to clean dirty water (wastewater) from homes and businesses in Atlantic County. There are 5 wind turbines and 2700 solar panels that generate electricity. You will learn about today's wastewater treatment process, how wind turbines and solar panels work and we will have the chance to throw on a hardhat to take an up close look at a wind turbine.

June 9 at 1 PM Atlantic County Historical Society, 907 Shore Road Somers Point Thanks to Mary Rydzewski we will have a private tour of the museum and we will see the Notable Women of Atlantic County display. We will also be able to see early Atlantic City ships, tools and clothing.

July 14 at 1 Thanks to Lorraine Stoughton we will return to Cape May this summer for a boat tour, this time to observe the Osprey. The tour lasts 2 hours and the boat holds 30 people. I recommend that you buy your ticket as soon as you know you can attend, for the tour will be open to the general public, but I hope we fill the boat with our members. Use the discount coupon code: CARD3OFF for a rate of \$33. The site for payment and other information of the trip can be found at: www.ospreycruise.com The marina is easy to locate after entering Cape May (opposite the Lobster House) turn right on 3rd street, go straight and the parking lot is in front of you.

August 11 at 1PM Thanks to Ann-Maria Guevara we will be visiting an animal rescue sanctuary. Steve Serwatka specializes in animal education along with caring for the animals. We will see and learn about wild and domestic animals such as otters, foxes and reptiles. More details will be sent on this trip in the summer.

September 8 1:30 Sunset Flower Farm grows flowers to sell to flower shops, nurseries and stores. We will have a tour by the owner Linda Rau of the fields and learn about the flower business. The cost for the tour and a complimentary bouquet of flowers is \$20. For more information: www.sunsetflowerfarm.com The farm is located about 25 minutes from Exit 25 of the Garden State Parkway.

Please RSVP so that I can know our numbers. Most helpful to respond a week and a half to a few days before the event. Questions and concerns do not hesitate to contact me on my 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.

The Salon is on hiatus from April-June when we meet for Great Decisions. We will resume our regular schedule of meeting on the second Monday of the month, at the Margate Library from 2:30-3:30, in July. So, our summer meetings will be on July 10 and August 14. If you want to join the Salon group, or just learn more about it, please email me at VKoob@aol.com.

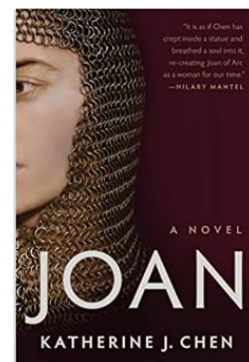
Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com

The final Book Club meeting for the season will be on Friday, May 19, at 10:30 at the Linwood Library. Carolyn Bassett will lead the discussion of "Joan: A Novel" by Katherine Chen. This is a re-imagining of the life of Joan of Arc, NOT a biography.

This summer we will follow up the novel about Joan with some French literature. Some of us will even be able to read the stories in French. Yours truly is definitely not one of them. On Friday, July 14 the author is Guy De Maupassant. Selections include "Boule de Suif", "The Necklace", and a few others (TBA). On July 21 the selection is "The Misanthrope" by Moliere and the final choice for July 28 is the "Little Prince". All three meetings will be held at the home of Mary Lou Breidenstine at 10:30.



We will of course end our summer program with a movie (Joan of Arc) and lunch. It is always a delightful day.

For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

For a More Equal Society is reading "Poverty, by America" by Matthew Desmond. We watched a video interview with him last month, and we are reading the prologue and chapters one and two for this meeting. We usually meet by ZOOM because we have several members members from Ocean County and normally our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 1pm. We will continue to meet over the summer, discussing the book on Poverty. The June meeting will be June 1 at 1pm, July will be Thursday, July 13, and in August it will be Thursday, August 10. All these meetings will be on ZOOM.

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

A lovely time was had by all attendees at our recent lunch at Knife & Fork.

Now it's time to get a little adventurous: our next Ethnic Lunch will be at the Filipino restaurant, Bahay Kubo, in the Shop Rite plaza in EHT, on Thursday, May 18 at noon. (It's right next door to Rama Thai, where we've been) It's not fancy but that's not our primary criterion.

Filipino food is flavorful - lots of garlic, some ginger and soy sauce - but it's NOT spicy, so have no fear. All the menu items are followed by descriptions, so it's pretty easy to tell what you're getting. PLEASE NOTE: Some of the menu items will seem pricey (\$22-\$25), but the manager assured me that these are considered "family style" portions and easily serve two. Here is the website: <https://bahaykuboeht.com/menu>. I urge you to peruse the menu before our date so you can find a few things that look good to you. (I've already found 6!)



Hope to see you there! Hope to see you all there! Ann-Maria

Stockton Theater Ushers Group

Theresa Sartorio

theresasartorio@comcast.net

**Stockton Children's Theater Needs Volunteer Ushers**

The Children's Summer Playhouse series is looking for volunteers. The shows will take place in the Performing Arts Center (the big theater) at 11 am. Peter Pan- will be Wednesday, July 12 . Jungle Book - will be Wednesday, July 19. If you can volunteer for either show, please call or email me (Theresa) at 609 965-9521or theresasartorio@comcast.net. I will contact you with the details.

Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com



The Travel Group will meet on ZOOM on Wednesday, June 7 at 1pm. The topic is Monticello and Mount Vernon, two stately Virginia homes of early presidents. Valerie Koob will be the presenter with a trip a little closer to home than her last one. She has visited the sites recently and will be able to tell us how the narrative has changed with the times. Let Carolyn know if you plan to attend.

We will not meet over the summer, so I hope that we can recommence in the fall with a lot of new travel experiences. No travelers, no programs!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays	4:00 pm Zoom	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
June 5	1:00 pm Linwood Library	Short Film/Documentary Group Film & my journey with Metastatic Breast Cancer	Jean Mason
June 1 July 13 Aug 10	1:00 pm Zoom	For a More Equal Society	Carolyn Bassett
May 19 Friday	10:30 am Linwood Library	Book Group Joan: A Novel	Mary Lou Breidenstine
July 14 July 21 July 28	10:30 am	Book Group Various titles	Mary Lou Breidenstine
May 18 Thursday	Noon EHT	Ethnic Luncheon Group Bahay Kubo	Ann-Maria Guevara
May 12 June 19 July 14 August 11	Various times Various locations	Explorer's Group	Kris Baker
May 17 Wednesday	7 pm Linwood Library	Program Meeting Speaking of Atlantic City;; Recollections and Memories; Instllation of new Officers	Tula Christopoulos
June 7 Wednesday	1 pm ZOOM	Travel Group Monticello and Mount Vernon	Carolyn Bassett
July 10 Aug 14 Monday	2:30 pm Margate Library	The Salon Group	Valarie Koob
July 12 July 19	11 am Stocton	Stockton Children's Theater	Theresa Sartorio
July 23-29	All Day Stockton Univ.	Tech Trek STEM Camp at Stockton University for high school girls	Theresa Basquez