

PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS

WELCOME WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Presidents' Message

Dear AAUW-Atlantic County Members,

Oh, what a month (February) has been! A new cooking class, exploring the history of the Flanders's Hotel, celebrating Black History Month, learning about two African-American entrepreneurs, Madam CJ Walker (first American woman self-made millionaire), and then in March to the Arts Garage for a presentation about Sarah Spencer Washington, who owned Apex News and Hair Company in Atlantic City, New Jersey back in 1919. She was the first African-American Woman to own a golf course! (FORE)

These ladies were true entrepreneurs and risk-takers. They both made their empires on beauty and/or haircare products. These ladies defied all odds. As Coco Chanel said, "Women have always been the strong ones in the world." Certainly, Madam CJ Walker and Sarah Spencer Washington were amazing women and role models, each with their own story of strength and courage to become entrepreneurs and to make a difference in the lives of others.

It's hard to believe it, but it is now March 2024. March is National Women's History Month. The theme for 2024 is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The theme recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from our lives and institutions." link Our work continues as we provide opportunities for women and girls through our scholarship program, Tech Trek and TeenTech programs, and so much more. We are truly making a difference in the lives of girls and young women.

In just about a month or so, on April 6, we honor our Woman of Distinction, Claudine Keenan, Interim Vice-Provost at Stockton University. She has been an admired leader for women and men pursuing degrees in education as Stockton's longest-serving Dean of the School of Education. Additionally, she is the force behind the state-wide Tech Trek program for STEM education and careers. A program we are all proud of. If you haven't purchased your ticket, please do so. There is more information about this amazing event in this newsletter.

Thank you for making AAUW-Atlantic County such an amazing organization.

Jean McAlister, Co-President of Atlantic County Chapter of AAUW

mcaliste@atlanticcape.edu

Shelly Meyers, Co-President of Atlantic County Chapter of AAUW

sfmecllc@gmail.com

The committee met to discuss and organize spring programming for our branch. State AAUW hosted a Zoom program highlighting the accomplishments of Madame CW Walker on Wednesday, February 21st. Sign up flyers were emailed to all our membership to view this event in their homes.

Since Madame Walker was an early Black entrepreneur and philanthropist, the committee decided to offer an educational presentation on our own local counterpart, Madame Sarah Spencer Washington, Atlantic City's most successful Black businesswoman and community leader in the 20th century. This will be an in-person luncheon and presentation on Saturday, March 23rd noon to 2 pm, at the Arts Garage, parking on-site, in Atlantic City. In keeping with the Atlantic City theme, lunch will be catered by the world famous White House sub shop. Our presenter will be Ralph Hunter, director of the African American Museum located in the Arts Garage. An informative flyer and RSVP information is included below. RSVP and checks should be sent to Linda Karp by March 15.

On **Saturday April 6th**, our branch will honor Stockton Dean of Education Dr. Claudine Keenan as our 2024 Woman of Distinction. Dr Keenan, a branch member, has been instrumental in providing leadership to the Tech Trek summer camp program, a joint initiative of AAUW and Stockton University. The luncheon will be held at the Carriage House in Absecon. Members are encouraged to attend and to invite outside guests to this special event honoring the lifetime achievements of Dr. Keenan who has contributed so much to the mission of our organization. Information can be found [here](#) and registrations can be made via this [link](#).



AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE MUSEUM
OF ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY, USA

Join us at the African American Heritage Museum
Learn about Madame Sarah Spencer Washington, Atlantic City entrepreneur, philanthropist, and local hero. And enjoy world famous White House Subs.

Saturday March 23 • 12pm

\$15 per person includes the museum and White House Subs Lunch.

The Arts Garage in Atlantic City. Onsite parking available for \$4.

Ralph E. Hunter, founder and curator of the African American Heritage Museum will be our presenter.

Madame Sarah Spencer Washington was a millionaire black business woman who founded a hairdressing business in Atlantic City, NJ in 1913 which later expanded into the Apex News and Hair Company. She was honored at the 1939 New York World's Fair as the "Most Distinguished Businesswomen." Her beauty colleges were located in twelve states and employed 35,000 agents all over the world. She was the backbone of the local black community and founded a nursing home, golf course, and country club for black residents of Atlantic County.



Please register and send in payment for lunch by March 15, 2024
Mail checks to: Linda Karp • 236 Cambridge Avenue • Linwood, NJ 08221
Make checks payable to AAUW
Guests are invited at \$15/person

Membership Vice President

Kristina Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

As of February 21, 2024 we have 121 members in our chapter.
Welcome Daria Danyo of Ocean City to our group.

Tutors for Educational Equity

Virginia Rettig

rettigva@yahoo.com

We are still awaiting clarification and guidance on how the new State law allowing alternate-route teachers to forego Praxis Core test-taking will be applied. Many potential clients have put testing on hold until we know more, but as the spring progresses towards the next teaching year, we expect increased interest in tutoring.

Scholarship Officer

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

Thanks to the generosity of AAUW members, the branch will offer the following scholarships:

- 1) A \$3000 to Stockton University for a student minoring in Women and Gender studies
- 2) A \$2500 to Atlantic Cape for a woman majoring in Culinary Arts
- 3) A \$3000 to Atlantic Cape for a woman majoring in nursing.

The dedication of our finance committee, program committee, and general membership has been instrumental in sustaining our commitment to supporting education for women. Your efforts have made a significant impact, ensuring that we can continue to empower women through education.

STEM Officer

Theresa Basquez

tbasquez_86@hotmail.com

Student applications for **Tech Trek 2024** are due in early March, after which we will interview candidates. Though the number of applicants is not expected to be large, please let me know if you are interested in interviewing. tbasquez_86@hotmail.com

Also coming up - **AAUW's Teen Tech 2024** at the Atlantic Cape Community College at Mays Landing campus on May 10th. The day will start at 8:45 am when buses arrive with high school girls to attend two workshops, and close after lunch between 1:30 and 2:00 pm. Volunteers will be needed to help monitor and chaperone - please email your interest in supporting this activity to me: tbasquez_86@hotmail.com

Thanks to all volunteers who participated in **Tween Tech 2024** at Stockton University on January 3rd: Kristina Baker, Theresa Basquez, Carolyn Bassett, Terry Dailey, Jeannette Flax, Kathy Ghanavati, Linda Harmon, Virginia Rettig, Joan Vicari, Bonnie Warwick, and Kathy Ziegenfus. The 131 7th Grade girls attending split into groups to attend their choice of two workshops and had lunch in between. Workshop choices included Build a Wind-Powered Turbine, Coding Your Sphero Robot, Food Chemistry, Oceans and Climate, Lasers and Lissajous Figures, [Maple] Sap to Syrup, Egg Drop Challenge and Upcycled STEM Challenge Lab. An interesting time was had by all!

Continued support for STEM activities is greatly appreciated!

How many times have you heard the words, "Time, Talent, and Treasure?" I heard it first from my Pastor when I became a member of a new church. I'm going to use it in reference to our active, dedicated, and generous members. You have been extremely generous in our fundraising efforts for our Scholarships and STEM programs whether we met on line or in person. Our Boscov's Friends and Family program brought in \$500.00 which went towards our efforts. The talent and time given by our mighty, but small committee members are the reason our efforts have been successful. From planning in the summer, to acquiring commitments from a restaurant, along with guest speakers, or performers, to designing and printing materials, and gathering gift cards and baskets, table arrangements, thank you notes, and collecting checks, it is a huge task! Our committee needs the time of a few more members to help us out in our 2024 efforts. Please think about saying yes to joining our hard working group or donating a gift card or basket for this year's efforts. We love what we do, have lots of fun, and feel so much gratification. Many, many thanks to all of you. I am so proud to be a member of AAUW in Atlantic County.

Public Information

Pam Tyson

pamtyson@herocampaign.com



I am pleased to announce that we now have an AAUW- Atlantic County LinkedIn page. This will be a great resource for networking and hopefully encouraging new and younger members to join us. Once you start to follow our page, we ask that you like and comment about our posts, so those who follow you will see what we are doing. Also, there is an option to share the posts with those who you've connect with.

To follow our new page, first you need to set up a Linked in page. Go to linkedin.com and then click Join Now to set up your personal profile. After you joined, type AAUW-Atlantic County NJ into the search window. When you find our page, click the button that says "follow".

If you are having a problem, finding our page, you can email me what your profile name is and I will look for you and invite you.

Start following our page today at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/aauw-atlantic-county-nj>

AAUW National has long supported and urged the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) proposed in 1923 and passed by Congress in 1972. The 24 words of the ERA don't sound very radical: It would provide that "equality of rights and the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex." So why don't women and men have equal rights under the United States Constitution today?

A full answer would require a dissertation, not a few paragraphs in our newsletter, so here are the highlights, (or low lights).

- The proposed ERA required that 38 state legislatures adopt the ERA within seven months of passage, and three of the 38 almost all-male legislatures did so in time to meet that deadline.
 - In February 2020 the House of Representatives voted to remove the deadline and the Attorneys General of Illinois, Virginia and Nevada sued the federal government to overturn their prior opposition votes, arguing that the seven year time limit was ineffective, but those cases were unsuccessful.
 - The 14th amendment, prohibiting race and gender discrimination, did not protect women from gender inequality because Supreme Court Justices such as the late Justice Scalia argued that the founding fathers did not have sex discrimination in mind when they wrote the 14th Amendment, which led to overturning many gender equality victories won under that amendment.
 - 50 years ago, when Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg argued *Roe v. Wade*, she based her argument on the right to privacy, not on the 14th amendment for reasons that made sense at the time.
 - But the six Republican appointed conservative members of today's Supreme Court relied upon their belief that there is no right to privacy under the United States Constitution and that *Roe* was wrongfully decided.
 - The ERA Coalition, including AAUW and 300+ other organizations, are working with state, federal and grassroots partners to advance the cause of women's equality in the United States primarily through adding the equal rights amendment to the constitution and supporting states ongoing efforts to ratify the ERA.
 - Our AAUW.org site and the ERACoalition.org have lots of suggestions for how you can fight for our daughters and granddaughters.
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Items of Special Interest

Cape May Atlantic County Chapter Joint Outing



Our March AAUW outing for Atlantic County and Cape May County chapters' members will be brunch at the Blue Pig and an historical tour of Congress Hall on Tuesday, March 12.

Lunch will begin at 11:30am. We will be ordering from a group menu so our meals can be ready for us to enjoy them together and be in time for our tour. The lunch menu choices and prices are listed below.

The tour costs \$5.00 and will begin at 1:00pm. (Please have cash to pay for the tour and consider a tip for the guide.)

- Please rsvp to Joan Vicari at jbvicari@yahoo.com by the end of this **Tuesday, March 5**.
 - Please specify if you plan to attend either the lunch or the tour, or both.
 - Include your lunch order in your rsvp email, so the chef can be well prepared for our group. Please email Joan Vicari for the menu.
- *Please note any special dietary needs or requests in your rsvp so I can notify the chef. The restaurant would like to accommodate your needs.

SAVE THE DATE

The next Board Meeting is Monday, March 7, 2024 at
7pm (Zoom)
More information to follow!

You are invited to attend
AAUW's 2024 Woman of Distinction
honoring
Dr. Claudine Keenan

Join us in celebrating the personal and professional accomplishments of our trail-blazing member.

Dr. Claudine Keenan, the Interim Vice Provost at Stockton University, is the Coordinator of Tech Trek, a STEM program/camp for high school girls sponsored by Stockton University and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to foster interest in careers in sciences and engineering.



Dr. Claudine Keenan, AAUW Tech Trek Coordinator & Stockton University Dean

Among her many other accomplishments:

- Nominated by Governor Murphy and approved by the State Senate for membership on the New Jersey Board of Education.
- Leader in the NJ Deans of Education Organization
- AAUW President of AWCO
- Inducted into the Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame
- Stockton University Chief Planning and Budget Officer, Dean of Education for over 10 years, Interim Provost, Leader of the Doctorate of Education program

JOIN US in honoring Claudine: Saturday, April 6, 2024

Time: 12noon to 3pm

Venue: Carriage House • 25 S Pitney Rd, Galloway, NJ 08205

Register Deadline is March 20, 2024 • CLICK QR Code to register.



Whether paying online or by check, you must register online.

For check payment, mail to: Kriss Rudisill • 571Holly Brook Road • Galloway, NJ 08205

Make check payable to AWCO

For more information email: ac-nj@aauw.net

Cost: \$60 • Cash Bar

Invite a friend to join you.



AAUW Atlantic County branch has been promoting women's equity through education for over 100 years through scholarships, STEM programs, and other community outreach initiatives.



AAUW
Claudine Keenan
Woman of Distinction 2024

Event Timing: **APRIL 6, 2024 12:00 - 3:00**

Event Address: **THE CARRIAGE HOUSE** on 25 S. PITNEY ROAD, GALLOWAY, NJ

Contact us at: **(609) 402-8890** or lisagoodwin999@gmail.com Lisa Goodwin

Cost is \$60.00 – Deadline for registration & payment: **March 20th**

Click above to register today for this special event. One registration per attendee. Questions can be sent to our Event Coordinator Lisa Goodwin at (609) 402-8890 or lisagoodwin999@gmail.com

**AAUW NJ applauds Atlantic County
Tween Tech event January 3rd**

SUPPORTING THE MISSION

Tweens + Tech = Perfect Together



On January 3, 2024, an engaging Tween Tech program was hosted by Dr. Claudine Keenan at Stockton University in conjunction with AAUW of Atlantic County where 131 seventh graders from six area schools attended a variety of STEM workshops. The students were split into groups to attend their choice of two workshops; lunch was served in between, along with a continuing education presentation. The exciting Egg Drop Challenge was coached by Jackie McGuiness, an AAUW member and strong contributor to STEM events.

Workshops covered a variety of subjects: Build a Wind-Powered Turbine, Coding Your Sphero Robot, Food Chemistry, Oceans and Climate, Lasers and Lissajous Figures, [Maple] Sap to Syrup, and Upcycled STEM Challenge Lab. At the closing session, three of the student teams spoke to the group about their projects: Egg Drop Challenge story characters, a Wind Turbine Model and a STEM Challenge masterpiece: a Rube Goldberg Marble Drop.



INTEREST GROUPS

Documentary/Short Film Group

Jean Mason

Jeanmariemason54@gmail.com

March 4- The Red Pill- this was actually recommended by my son. "When a feminist filmmaker sets out to document the mysterious and polarizing world of the Men's Rights Movement, she begins to question her own beliefs. The Red Pill chronicles Cassie Jaye's journey exploring an alternate perspective on gender equality, power and privilege." Watch the trailer below- it got me riled up!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLzeakKC6fE>

We hope to see you there! Jean Mason, 610-761-3106, jeanmariemason54@gmail.com



In January we visited the US Life Saving Station in Ocean City and learned about ocean rescue from 1885 to 1905. The building has been maintained in that era. February brought us to the Flanders Hotel in Ocean City (above). We received a tour of the penthouse unit along with several other units. The presentation covered the history of the hotel including the story of the ghost of the Flander's and the catacombs.

Date: Friday March 8

Time: 1:30

Program: Lin Conover, Owner of Wood Song Mushrooms, Cape May County

She will be talking about the pros and cons of growing gourmet mushrooms for retail sales, how to store mushrooms and cooking ideas.

Location: Linwood Library (301 Davis Ave. Linwood 08221)

Parking: in the lot in front of the library, entrance to the first floor is to the left of the building

Accessibility: meeting room and bathroom are on the first floor

Cost: \$5

RSVP: required

Date: Friday April 12

Time: 1:30

Program: Presentation by Virginia Rettig Refuge Manager

Location: Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (800 Great Creek Road, Oceanville 08231) off Route 9 on the way to Smithville

"Program: after Virginia's talk either "guided nature walk" with Virginia or "wildlife drive" in your car

Cost: Free

RSVP: required

Questions or concerns: I can also be reached at 609-602-4467



The first meeting of this new interest group was held at Shelly Meyers house. She made for us her family's recipe for Kugel and Apple Cake. Personally, the best of both I have ever tasted.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday March 27

Time: 1:30

Location: Anne Carson's House Mays Landing

Program: Anne will be cooking two of her family favorites

Cost: between \$5 and \$10 depending on ingredient list

RSVP: required

Question or concern: I can also be reached at 609-602-4467

The Salon Group

Valerie Koob

vkoob@aol.com

We just finished up Year Two of our discussion group: The Salon! We will be on hiatus from March through May and will resume meeting in June. 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!

This past year, our topics included: How to Find Happiness, Trends in US Education, Homelessness, Banned Books, Religion in Society, Trans Girls in Sports, The Pros and Cons of Artificial Intelligence, and Recent Supreme Court Decisions.

You can find us at the Margate Library, from 2:30-3:30, on the second Monday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Monday June 10th. 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 to Carolyn for leading a great discussion of The Marriage Portrait. Our next selection is the play Our Town by Thornton Wilder. Ann-Maria will lead. She has much experience with this piece as she taught it many times during her career as an English teacher. Meeting is 3/1/24 at 10:30 at the Linwood Library. We will follow Our Town with Tom Lake by Ann Patchett. Tom Lake is a novel about a group of people who participate in various productions of Our Town.

I'm hoping that I have solved my email problems. Please let me know if anyone mentions that they are not getting Book Group emails. Thanks.

For a More Equal Society is a discussion group that meets via ZOOM to talk about issues of equity and try to educate ourselves on how to foster a society where civil discourse can lead to more justice and equity for all. Our meetings are every second Thursday of the month at 1pm. We are beginning to read *The Identity Trap* by Yascha Mounk which examines how the things we have in common are greater than the things that divide us and advocates for seeking shared values over “identity politics.” We will meet next on Thursday, March 14 at 1pm. Please let Carolyn know if you would like to get notices about group meetings and discussion topics. We plan to continue to meet over the summer.

Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com



Every Monday afternoon the participants of the Spanish group open up their Zoom device at 4:00 and spend two hours conversing to improve fluency and vocabulary. Our discussions are not planned, we have no homework, but somehow we always find something to share. Whether you are fluent, as a few of us are, or are trying to review what you knew when you studied the language, you will feel welcome. One word of warning: we speak only Spanish. Contact me for more information.

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

Erin Go Bragh!! For all those who are Irish, or Irish-at-heart, our Ethnic Lunch for March will celebrate Irish food at The Irish Pub, in Atlantic City, on Thursday, Mar. 21 at 12:30. Please take a look at the website: <https://theirishpub.com/> Lots of solid comfort food at a reasonable price. And there is a parking lot across the street. Many thanks to Bev Schechtman for this timely suggestion.
Hope to see you all there!
Ann-Maria
P.S. April date/location TBA.



Stockton Theater Ushers Group

Theresa Sartorio

theresasartorio@comcast.net

The Stockton Children's Playhouse series is looking for volunteers to usher. The next show is the Bay Atlantic Symphony : How music talks. It will take place on May 7th in the Performing Arts Center (the big theater) at 10:30 am. and 12 p.m. If you can volunteer please contact Theresa at 609 965-9521 or email her at theresasartorio@comcast.net. She will contact you with the details.





The Travel Group invites members to present an interesting trip they have taken and give us some background on an area they have visited. We have had presentations of exotic far-away travels to places like Antarctica, to European countries like Italy and Malta, and to trips within a day or weekend’s travel like The Raritan Canal of NJ, Mount Vernon and Monticello. The group gets together by ZOOM the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm. The next three presentations will take place on March 13, April 10 and May 8. I hope to have a program for June, but we will not meet in July or August.

In March, Tula Cristopoulos and Judy Courter will talk about their trip to England to study English wines which have come into existence due to climate change. That will be at 1pm on March 13.

April 10: Airstream Adventures in the Maritimes: Maine, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia is the topic for the Travel Group on Wednesday, April 10 at 1pm on Zoom. Saskia Schmidt and her husband, Brian Stein, along with their dog, Lorenzo, went on a 5 week 5,000 mile trip with their Airstream trailer along the New England coastline and up through four Canadian provinces. They will present an overview of their trip featuring stunning landscapes and the fascinating geological and cultural history of the Maritimes region.

May 8 : Aiken South Carolina: In January Anne Carson had a short visit to Aiken and had an opportunity to learn about this charming southern town. She will share information about local attractions and history of the area.

Programs and Board Meetings			
Mar 7 Thursday	Zoom 7 pm	Board Meeting	
March 23 Saturday	Arts Garage AC Noon	Monthly Program Sarah Spencer Washington	Shelley Cohen
April 6 Saturday	Carriage House Absecon Noon	Woman of Distinction Luncheon Dr. Claudine Keenan	Lisa Goodwin
April TBD	Zoom	Monthly Program and Annual Meeting	Shelley Cohen

Information on the dates, times and event details for Interest Groups can be found in the sections above or by contacting the Interest Group Leader directly.