



SERVING WOMEN FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS

President's Message

Arlene Groch

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A Life Well Lived

I have tried to use my monthly Forum “bully pulpit” to write something kind, thoughtful and substantive. My “message” this month is to share with you the life of my beloved friend and mentor Diane Koob, aka Rev. Diane Wachtler. Sadly, Diane died on March 17, 2021 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

I met Diane in 2018 when I became president of our AAUW Branch. She was 2nd Vice President, Membership Chairperson and Recording Secretary. I was a new member who did not know the branch's members, history or culture. Diane became my mentor and confidante and soon also my deep, close, cherished friend.

As you will see below, Diane thought about us and our AAUW branch in her last wishes. Contributions to AAUW general fund in honor of Diane can be made by check to AAUW, mailed to Linda Karp at 236 Cambridge Avenue Linwood, NJ 08221 or through PayPal at this link: <http://paypal.me/aauwac>. Or you can donate to our Trust Fund for scholarships, at this site: <https://www.communityfoundationsj.org/american/>

Diane was born on May 20th, 1949 in St. Paul, Minnesota to Irma H. Wachtler and Dr. Raymond J. Wachtler. She attended public schools until 1963 when she matriculated in the Summit School, now known as Summit-St. Paul Academy. Her Minnesota roots and childhood friends have always remained a treasured part of her life. After two years at Skidmore College in New York, she returned to finish her BA in modern European intellectual history at the University of Minnesota. While there she joined Delta Gamma Sorority and graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. After her undergraduate studies, Diane worked and traveled for two years before returning to the University of Minnesota where she completed a Master's degree in Modern European History and helped lead undergraduate courses as a teaching assistant. Following an experience of being called into ministry, she changed her vocational goal from academics to the pastorate. She completed a Masters of Divinity at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities while serving in student pastor positions which included her home church, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis. She was ordained in the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1979. In her last year of seminary, while doing chaplaincy work at Hennepin County Medical Center, she met Gerry Koob, a former Jesuit Priest. They married in 1980 while she was serving Excelsior United Methodist Church in Excelsior, Minnesota. They had two daughters, Jennifer and Robin. After five years they moved to New Jersey where Gerry joined her in the United Methodist ministry. Diane served as a local pastor in a number of different churches (including Central United Methodist Church in Linwood) and as a District Superintendent. After the birth of their first grandchild, Diane and Gerry retired to the Jersey Shore, living in Somers Point. During retirement, Diane was active in the Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church, the AAUW, the Somers Point Democratic Club, gardening, and, of course, grandparenting. Diane is survived by her beloved husband, Gerard Joseph Koob, her daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Sean Rothwell from Linwood as well as her daughter Robin and son-in-law Stephen Cull, Manchester, UK. She is also survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Dan and Kathy Wachtler, their sons and grandchildren, and many dear friends and cousins. Finally, she is survived by her granddaughter Grace

Rothwell and her grandson Luke Rothwell, the joys of her life. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make donations to Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church, to your local AAUW branch, to environmental groups, or to any charity that speaks to your heart. To leave condolences, pay respects, or share a special memory of Diane please visit www.jeffriesandkeates.com.

Membership Vice-President

Linda Karp

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Isn't it wonderful to have the days longer and brighter? Makes us feel so much better and eager to get on with our lives. And then....we have all the great activities that AAUW provides. We are all now so much better at Zoom, which is a good thing!

If you have friends who would like to join AAUW, please let me know. So far we are meeting our goal of adding at least one new member per month.

Please welcome our newest member:

Shari Masker

5914 Harley Avenue

Mays Landing, NJ 08330

(H) 609-476-2777

sdmasker@aol.com

Shari is a graduate of Stockton College. She is a field hockey coach, NJ State certified firefighter, advocate for maternal health, mother, educator, small business owner and social marketing influencer!

Please welcome Shari when you meet her on any of our Zoom programs!

Stay Safe. Social Distance. Wash your hands. Wear a mask!

Nominating Committee Report

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS for AAUW Atlantic County NJ Board 2021:

President: Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

Program Vice-president: Tula Christopoulos

Membership Vice-president: Kris Baker *

(stepping in since the membership VP is moving to treasurer)

Treasurer: Linda Karp *

(taking the Treasurer's position vacated by the resignation of Beverly Schechtman)

Fundraiser Chair: Kathy Zeigenfus

Diversity Facilitator: Sharone Jackson-Brown

Forum Editor: Anne Carson

Public Information: Janet Yunghans

Public Policy: Jenine Brown

From the Nominating Committee: Carolyn Bassett, Gail Davis, Carol Zerbe

**Celebrate Earth Day on April 21st 7 pm
Climate Change Impacts in NJ
and What We're Doing About It**



A panel of New Jersey conservation experts, moderated by Virginia Rettig, Refuge Manager of Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, will discuss the latest research related to climate changes that impact NJ's coastal communities and habitats.

Learn how the NJ Climate Change Alliance, a network of diverse organizations, shares the goal of advancing non-partisan, evidence-based climate strategies for the purpose of outlining policy options for NJ communities. The flyer with Zoom link is included in the Forum email.

A Question and Answer session will follow the panel discussion.

Panel participants: Martha Maxwell-Doyle, Project Coord., Barnegat Bay Partnership
Angela Andersen, Sustainability Coord., Long Beach Twp. & Pres., NJ Recyclers
Vanessa Dornisch, Trng. Coord., Cousteau Nat'l Estuarine Research Reserve
Kimberly McKenna, Associate Director, Stockton Univ. Coastal Research Center

After the program we will hold a brief Branch Meeting to elect officers.

**Celebrate Us!: Installation of the 2021 Officers
May 13th 7 pm**

Meet our newly elected officers and new members, and celebrate our 2021 accomplishments. There will be a door prize for a lucky attendee. Be certain to save the date and join us!

Corresponding Secretary

Kris Baker

Kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

There are some changes with the Corresponding Secretary position. I will remain in this position until May 2021 and then duties of this position will become part of Membership. During this time I will continue to send The Forum to members who require a copy by mail. Presently, there are only 7 members who require this. During the last month, one of our dearly loved members passed away and a card was sent to the family on behalf of AAUW. Linda and I for these few months will share in the responsibilities of the Membership position. Feel free to contact us with any concerns.



Gracious Gifts in Memory of Diane Koob have been received from:

Carolyn Bassett
Arlene Groch

STEM

Gail Davis

ghdath@comcast.net

We are proceeding with great plans for our virtual Tech Trek camp with the MeetnGreet on May 15. The virtual camp will consist of a daily YOGA session, core classes in the morning followed by workshops in the afternoon. Evening activities are varied including tie-dying tee shirts, movie night, Professional Women's night, etc. As usual, we always are in need of funds so if you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of anyone please contact



me. We surely hope that for 2022 we will be able to resume our normal Tech Trek selection procedure and camp at Stockton U provided vaccines are available for those 12/13 years old.

Public Policy

Jenine Brown

Jb1nj@aol.com

As we move through historic times, AAUW stays the course with its mission to acknowledge, encourage and advance matters of gender and financial equity.

The median salary for women is just 82% of the median salary for men. Median earnings for American women working full time are \$45,097, while men are paid \$55,291. Women are almost to 47% of the workforce, with as many as two-thirds being primary or co-breadwinners of their families. Women of color are all but invisible among the top earners.



AAUW recently held a forum in partnership with Eos Foundation and the Institute for Women's Policy Research entitled The Power Gap among Top Earners at America's Elite Universities. Its purpose was to explore the data from our nation's 130 top research universities. While women represent 57% of students in our nation's colleges and universities and have for many decades outpaced men in degree attainment, few are represented among those earning the highest salaries.

Congress is working on many bills crucial to AAUW's public policy priorities, including protections for paycheck fairness. If passed, the ERA will be a huge move toward ensuring equality for all Americans. Finally, our nation's foundational document would clarify that sex discrimination – whether in employment, health insurance, Social Security, education, or elsewhere – is a violation of our constitutional rights.

March 24th has been dubbed Equal Pay Day. The AAUW action network urges members to obtain the Paycheck Fairness Act Toolkit which outlines ways to communicate your ideas regarding salary equity.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/pfa-toolkit/>

Sources: AAUW.org/action network, Eos Foundation, iwpr.org

Community Foundation of SJ

Lois Fried

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The balance of funds on deposit at the Foundation was \$59,640 as of March 9.

Funds on deposit will be increased by a gift of \$5,000 from the estate of Jo Frances

Stowe. Legacy gifts have helped build this fund, which is used to assist students whom we hope will be instrumental in advancing the status of women. We acknowledge Ms. Stowe's gift with an appreciation for her desire to continue her support for AAUW for years to come.



Membership dues and any other payment to our organization can be made directly through PayPal at this [link](#). Using the Friends and Family option will result in no expense to you or the organization for the transaction.

Facebook

Karen Poorman

karenpoormansjawe@gmail.com

What you need to know about our presence on Facebook: There is an AAUW Atlantic page and an AAUW Atlantic group. The page can be read by everyone and anyone can join it. The group is members only and can only be seen by members. Fifty of our members are having daily discussions, posting information, photos and updates on our activities on the group page.



Join Facebook. Go to Facebook.com and click "Create New Account." Enter the information they ask for. Click "Sign Up." To finish creating your account, you need to confirm your email or mobile phone number. I have a separate email account for Facebook...one that I don't even check.

Once that is done, type "AAUW Atlantic Members" in the Facebook search bar. It will bring you to a screen that will ask if you are a member. I will receive a request from you and will approve you. That is the closed group page. You can "like" the AAUW Atlantic County Branch page.

It is good to "like" or post on Facebook at least occasionally because inactive accounts are the ones that tend to get hacked, so post on our group page. I hope to hear from you soon.

Items of Interest

AAUW National Art Contest

Heartfelt congratulations are warranted for our own Arlene Groch for her winning submission to the AAUW National Art Contest. She described "Hidden Woman 1" as "The joy of abstract impressionist painting is that the viewer controls the message. Women's lives were hidden for far too long. Find yours in my paintings." Arlene expressed her thanks for the support in "this late in life adventure."



In the art world women are underrepresented and undervalued. Only a third of artists represented by commercial galleries are women and women working in arts professions are paid on average 74 cents to every dollar paid to men. This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual art contest — to give women artists the attention they deserve.

The note cards of the winning entries will be mailed to all members.

COVID-19 Vaccine Assistance

Virginia Rettig

rettigva@yahoo.com

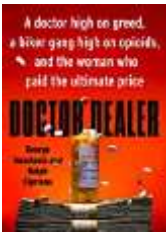
The AtlantiCare megasite is an incredible opportunity for our community to get vaccinated. The registration process can be a challenge, though. We have been working with partners such as NAACP and Cellular Tracking Technologies to provide assistance. If you know of anyone that is eligible for the vaccine and needs help getting an appointment in Atlantic City contact Virginia Rettig at rettigva@yahoo.com.

INTEREST GROUPS

Book Group

Mary Lou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com



Thanks to Carolyn for leading a great discussion of "White Houses", a novel about the relationship between Eleanor Roosevelt and her longtime companion "Hick". If you are interested in the affairs of the Roosevelts, be sure to watch the Masterpiece theater series "Atlantic Crossing". It begins on April 4 and dramatizes the relationship between FDR and the Norwegian Crown Princess, Martha.

If you missed our meeting and would like to see a delightful photo of member Ginney Gormley at the age of about 5 presenting flowers to Mrs. Roosevelt, go to the AAUW members Facebook page. If you haven't accessed the page yet, you are in for a treat. Lots of info and pics about AAUW members. If you don't know how to do it, ask your grandchildren. If you don't have grandchildren, ask your neighbor's grandchildren.

The next book club is **April 30** and Gail Vreeland will lead the discussion of "Dr. Dealer" by George Anastasia. This book is sure to provoke lots of discussion as it is the story of the murder of April Kauffman.

Ann-Maria Guevara will present poems by Louise Gluck, the winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize, on **June 11**. Specific poems TBA.

New people are always welcome. Carolyn will send the Zoom link. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Film Group

Terry Dailey

johnd4photo@aol.com

Tilton Theatre remains open and Regal will be reopening later this month (both will still have capacity restrictions and mask requirements). I will be polling the film group members to see if everyone has been vaccinated and feels comfortable venturing in to a theater by May or if they prefer to wait for in person screenings to resume in the fall. In the meantime, we continue to provide those on the group's email with suggestions to view at home. I have purchased three DVDs for us to screen once we are back together. Stay safe and healthy and get vaccinated!

For A More Equal Society

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com



We will meet on Thursday, April 8 at 1:30 when we will continue our discussion of Isabel Wilkerson's book Caste, as well as discussing the film, Social Dilemma, available on Netflix. Also read the NY Times article of March 16, 2021 on the slaveholding history of Georgetown University and suggestions for making amends.

Great Decisions Discussions

Lynne Walters

rrwalters321@hotmail.com

The Great Decisions Discussion Group will be meeting weekly during the months of April and May. This program helps us develop awareness and understanding of global issues. We'll be reading about a topic of current concern, watching a film on the subject, then meeting online to discuss it. A few of this year's topics include: Struggles Over the Melting Arctic, Global Supply Chains and National Security, Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic, and Persian Gulf Security Issues. Different members of the group lead the discussions each week.



Two of our clients recently passed tests they'd been studying for and are now eligible for higher-paying positions as teachers! We will be starting a tutor recruitment push this spring and are exploring how to work with ACCC to provide our services to their students. If you'd like to be a tutor, contact Virginia Rettig (rettigva@yahoo.com).



Conversational Spanish

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com



Our conversations include news of our families, friends, and neighborhoods as well as memories of our younger days and language-learning experiences. If you'd like to join our informal meetings via Zoom Monday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00, please contact me.



Travel Group

Carolyn Bassett

geoca41@gmail.com



The Travel Group enjoyed the excellent presentation on Antarctica made by Mary and Phil Ingram. The group will not meet in April, but on Tuesday, May 4 at 1pm, Karen Weis and Carolyn Bassett will give a short tour of New Jersey's little cemeteries. They explored cemeteries in Cape May, Atlantic, and Monmouth counties and will share their history with you.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays	4 pm	Conversational Spanish	Jeanette Flax
Ongoing		Great Decisions	Lynne Walters
April 8 Thursday	1:30 pm	For a More Equal Society	Carolyn Bassett
Apr 30 Friday	10:30 am	Book Discussion Dr. Dealer	Mary Lou Breidenstine
Apr 21 Wednesday	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting and Elections Climate Change in NJ and What We're Doing About It	Arlene Groch
May 4 Tuesday	1:00 pm	Travel Group Local Small Cemeteries	Carolyn Bassett
May 13 Mon	7:00 pm	Branch Meeting & Annual Officer Installation	Jackie Shelley
June 11	10:30 am	Book Discussion Louise Gluck Poetry	Mary Lou Breidenstine