

***Promoting Women's Equity Through Education For Over 100 Years***

**AAUW BRANCH MISSION:** To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

**Presidents' Message**

Greetings to all! It is my honor to be elected Co-President of our AAUW Branch. And I am delighted to be partnering with Jeanmarie Mason. I joined AAUW in 1968 – yes, 57 years ago and so I know longtime members and I hope to get to know all the new members very soon.

In that we are getting new members all the time, and growing so wonderfully, we thought it would be a good idea to resurrect a “membership committee” which would be responsible, basically, for continuing to connect with all members: those now living out-of-town, those in nursing homes, those who cannot get to evening meetings, and those who just need a touch every once in a while. If you are interested in joining such a group, please let me know.

As we travel into November there are three things we should be focusing on:

1. Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. If you have a Mail-in-Ballot – USE IT ! If you go to vote in person, after receiving a Mail-in-Ballot, you will be required to vote by Provisional Ballot. By the time you receive this Newsletter, Early Voting will have begun and ends at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are Voting in-person on Election Day, your Polling Place is noted on your Sample Ballot.
2. November is Native American History Month. We need to remember the tribes whose lands were taken from them, and on which we now reside: Lenni Lenape, Unami, and Unalachtigo.
3. High Tea Fundraiser, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 12 Noon to 3 p.m. at Flanders in Ocean City. Please plan to come and bring friends. Registration information is below. The net proceeds support AAUW Scholarships and STEM Camp. Also please consider making a special donation to these causes.



If you have any questions about any of the above – or about anything – text me at 609-703-4322 or e-mail [jecaterson@verizon.net](mailto:jecaterson@verizon.net)

## Officers' Reports:

### Program Officers

Jean McAlister

McAliste@atlanticcape.edu

Shelly Meyers

SFMECLLC@gmail.com

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We are pleased to report that we had over thirty AAUW members attend our September Welcome Back meeting at the Linwood Library. Several of us prepared appetizers and desserts, and a special thank you to Ada and MaryLou for ensuring the room was set up and all details were in place.

The October 23rd meeting also held at the Linwood Library focused on issues that effect women in our community, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Monique Corbett, a volunteer coordinator, and trainer for AVANZAR presented information to us and the statistics are staggering, in Atlantic and Cape May counties alone. Avanzar, formerly the Women's Center, provides support and guidance to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Our annual fundraiser is scheduled for November 15, 2025, at the Flanders Hotel in Ocean City. Please check your emails for the invitation and registration instructions. It promises to be a wonderful afternoon, and a big thank you to the fundraising committee, led by Kathy Z. and Carol Z. The Holiday luncheon program will be held on Saturday, December 13 at the Linwood Library.

Should you have suggestions for future programs, please contact us as we welcome new ideas.

Until next time,

Jean McAlister

Shelly Meyers

### Membership Officer

Shelly Meyers

SFMECLLC@gmail.com

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Dear AAUW members,

There are no new members to the Atlantic/Cape May Counties branch since my last report, however, volunteers made personal connections with new members inviting them to our Welcome Back September Meeting. When we take the time to make contact on an individual basis, people feel welcome. We in turn receive positive responses from them.

To date, our membership numbers have remained consistent, and many current members have renewed their financial commitments. I urge all of you to be AAUW Ambassadors and reach out to people you know, extend an invitation to our events, and through your participation, others will share your enthusiasm for AAUW and its mission.

Our Fall Fundraiser is a great place to start.

Regards, Shelly Meyers

## Finance Officer

Jackie Shelley-Tasoff

jacalyn\_shelley2003@yahoo.com

### **PLEASE READ:**

Beginning immediately, I'll be both the Finance Officer and Treasurer. Marcia is currently unable to assume the role of Treasurer.

### **What you need to know:**

My address: 238 Leap Street, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234

Phone number: (609) 892-6766

A new [Payment Request Reimbursement Form](#) & a [New Member Form](#) with my information is attached to this email.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DUES:**

Because we've found errors in our membership database, it's imperative that you double check your personal information in the [Membership Directory](#). If corrections are necessary or your name is missing, please don't hesitate to let me know. Please also take a moment to note in your personal calendar when your renewal dues will be due.

To access the Directory simply click on the Membership Directory button on the Newsletter email, find your name and you'll see your renewal status and renewal date.

Current dues for new and renewal members are a total of \$94 (\$74 National, \$10 State and \$10 Branch).

AAUW automatically sends up to 4 online reminders to pay your dues. We would appreciate it if you renewed your membership using the online system. Thank you!

## Fundraising Officers

Kathy Zeigenfus

kzeigenfus@aol.com

Carol Zerbe

czpaints45@gmail.com

It is with great pleasure that we serve as co-chairpersons of the Fundraising Committee. We get to work with dedicated members from AAUW who give their time, dedication, and energy to our efforts.

Our first activity was to raise funds for the benefit of the Community Food Bank. We sold \$380.00 worth of Boscov's Friends Helping Friends coupons for a 25% discount for shopping on October 22. In addition, at our September meeting, we collected hundreds of dollars worth of items in person. Nicola Tasoff was able to give these items plus the money to the Food Bank for baby related necessities. Working hand in hand, we were successful in making a significant contribution to this very worthy cause.

Our Annual Scholarship and STEM Programs Fundraiser will be happily enjoyed by members and friends at the "High Tea at High Noon" Event taking place at the Flanders Hotel on Saturday, November 15 at 12:00. The beautiful Flanders Hotel in Ocean City is known for its opulence and decor. High Tea will be served and member, Vicky Biron, will share her knowledge of tea

traditions with our group. A basket raffle will take place and we will take a special look at fabulous hat styles worn by our members.

Invitations were sent out by e-mail this year and we encourage you to share them with family and friends. We are saving a considerable amount of money by doing this electronically. (Please feel free to run off copies as well.)

We are still accepting donations for our baskets. Gift cards and new items which might make up interesting baskets are happily welcomed. Please call us and we will happily accept them from you. You can register to attend up until November 3. If you can't attend the High Tea, contributions will be appreciated towards our Scholarships and STEM Programs.

Carol Zerbe and Kathy Zeigenfus

## Community Partnerships Officer

Nicola Tasoff

[nicolatasoff@gmail.com](mailto:nicolatasoff@gmail.com)

AAUW Supports Women Fighting Hunger and the #GreatBigDiaperDrive

From Kathy Corbalis:

Please extend my heartfelt thanks to all AAUW members and officers for their incredible support of the Women Fighting Hunger and Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ) initiative. With nearly one in two families struggling to afford diapers, the need is great—and your generosity truly makes a difference.



Your donations of diapers, wipes, creams, and other baby items weighed in at 105 pounds, a tremendous contribution and the largest to date for the 2025 #GreatBigDiaperDrive! In addition, \$380 raised through the Boscov's Fundraiser, sponsored by our dedicated Fundraising Committee, was donated to the Diaper Drive — a wonderful example of our members' generosity in action! Thanks so much to the committee and all who supported it!

As we celebrate this success, please keep in mind our upcoming fundraiser for the Community Food Bank. We're awaiting suggestions from the pantry manager and will share details as soon as we have more information.

As always, thank you for your continued commitment to supporting women, children, and families in need!

## STEM Officer

Theresa Basquez

[tbasquez\\_86@hotmail.com](mailto:tbasquez_86@hotmail.com)



We'll be starting off the New Year with Tween Tech at Stockton University on **Friday, January 9, 2026**. Atlantic Cape Community College, Mays Landing, will be hosting Teen Tech on **Friday, May 8, 2026**.

- Tween Tech is a one-day program of STEM workshops for 6th-8th Grade girls.
- Teen Tech is a one-day program of STEM workshops for high school girls.

Tween Tech workshops haven't yet been finalized so particular assignments cannot be made, but it helps to have volunteer names in place. Please let us know you are available by using the sign-up sheet at [Tween Tech Volunteers F Jan 9 2026.docx](#)

Or, let me know if you'd like to volunteer to support either of these programs. If you can stay for the entire event, the day starts about 8 am, finishes by 2:00 pm, and involves chaperoning students to workshops and lending a hand when needed – passing out and collecting materials and surveys, supporting a workshop leader, helping a student. If you can't come for the whole event, sign up for the couple of hours that you are available. It's an interesting day – you're bound to enjoy the workshop and, added bonus, learn something new!

These programs are an essential part of AAUW's mission. Please lend your support. Thank you.

## Diversity Officer

Sharone Brown-Jackson

[brownjacksonse@aol.com](mailto:brownjacksonse@aol.com)

"Different roads sometimes lead to the same castle" (George R. R. Martin, A Game of Thrones)

VOTE!

What more can anyone say?

I recently had an incredible conversation with a Vietnam War Veteran so please thank a Vet on Tuesday, November 11, 2025!

Thanksgiving brings back memories of homemade buttered rolls and the best sweet potato pie ever; my Mother passed on her baking / cooking genius to my Sister. However, we plan to indulge in the Thanksgiving Feast Buffet at the Atlantic City Country Club!!

Happy Holidays! Whether you celebrate Hanukkah (Sunday, December 14 – Monday, December 22) or Christmas (Thursday, December 25) or Kwanzaa (December 26 – Thursday, January 1, 2026), please enjoy!!

In the meantime, see you on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at TEA...!!!

Respectfully,

Sharone

## Public Policy Officer

Jean McAlister

[McAliste@atlanticcape.edu](mailto:McAliste@atlanticcape.edu)

I wanted to share the AAUW policies with you, which can be found [here](#). I hope you will take a moment to review them at your convenience. As members of the local AAUW Atlantic County branch, we respect everyone's opinion and understand that not everyone may always agree with every AAUW policy or priority; however, these policies shall not divide us either. Where possible, we commit to sharing both sides of a



story. We appreciate your support. We have a fantastic group of members, and we recognize that all of our opinions matter.

AAUW focuses on education, economic security for women, social justice, civil rights, and federal priorities.

AAUW's 2025–2027 Federal Action Priorities:

- To support equitable access to higher education—and to reduce the barriers that hinder women's advancement, especially women of color—AAUW advocates for:
  - Reinstating Title IX rules that strengthen and clarify protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault, ensure accommodations for pregnant and parenting students, and affirm protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
  - Defending inclusive education from attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion. • Reducing barriers to postsecondary success, including increased financial support and manageable student debt.
  - Addressing non-tuition barriers such as paid leave, childcare, and access to contraception and abortion care.

Thank you for reviewing AAUW policies. We should all be proud of the work we do at AAUW-Atlantic County in providing educational opportunities for women and girls.

Lastly, don't forget to vote in the upcoming election for State candidates and local municipal officials on November 4 and make your voice heard.



#### Mark Your Calendar with these AAUW dates

RSVP Due for Fundraiser: Monday, Nov 3

Fundraiser Event: Saturday, Nov 15

AAUW AC Board Meeting: Monday, Nov 17

AAUW Holiday Program: Saturday, Dec 13

Tween Tech: Friday January 9, 2026

## Matters of Interest

Support Our Fundraiser: High Tea at High Noon  
November 15<sup>th</sup> Noon - 3 pm at The Flanders

  
AAUW  
Atlantic County (NJ) Branch

### Join AAUW for our 2025 High Tea Fundraiser!

Saturday, November 15, 2025 • 12noon-3pm  
Flander's Hotel in Ocean City  
719 East 11th Street, Ocean City, NJ • Free Parking  
Enjoy Special Guest Speaker Victoria Biron  
As she discusses "Tea Time Traditions"  
Cost: \$55 per person  
Basket Auction • 50/50 • Tea Hats Optional (Contest)

**Why Support this Fundraiser**  
The AAUW 2025 High Tea fundraiser will provide scholarships for students at Stockton University and Atlantic Cape Community College and contribute to three STEM programs for young women in high school and middle school. At Tech Trek and Tween Trek held at Stockton University and Teen Tech held at Atlantic Cape Community, girls are immersed in a world that empowers and encourages them to think about themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer specialists. So far, we have impacted nearly 200 young girls, and hopefully elevated their thinking about their future opportunities.

**All Attendees: Click Here & Register Online by November 3rd**  
There is an option to pay online with paypal, a credit card, or that you will pay later with a check.  
We would greatly appreciate if everyone could register online.  
Need assistance registering? Contact Lisa: 609 402-8890 • lisagoodwin999@gmail.com

**Where to Send a Check, Make an Additional Donation, and Optional Snail Mail Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Seat me with: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of attendees you are paying for \_\_\_\_\_ at \$55/each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Charitable Donation  \$500 •  \$200 •  \$100 •  \$75 •  \$50 •  Other.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ • Total Amount Enclosed.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

  
Make checks payable to AWCO  
Mail to: Kris H. Rudisill  
571 Holly Brook Road  
Galloway, NJ 08205

Where do you want your donation to go?  
 STEM Camps (100%)  
 Scholarships (100%)  
 Both (50/50%)

Print The Invitation

You can donate directly to our fundraiser supporting Scholarships and STEM by clicking this link below.

[Donate Online Here](#)

Add your name to our RSVP List to help our committee with seating charts and head count! You can also pay online with a credit card.

[Register Online Here](#)

## Interest Groups:

### Short Films & Documentaries

Jeanmarie Mason

jeanmariemason54@gmail.com

Welcome to another fun year of relaxing and enjoyable short films and documentaries. We will meet on the First Monday of the Month at 1:00 at the Linwood Library.

Monday, December 1- 1:00- Trainwreck- Balloon Boy



"Trainwreck: Balloon Boy" is a 2025 Netflix documentary exploring the 2009 "Balloon Boy" hoax, where the Heene family reported their son Falcon was in a "homemade helium balloon." What follows is an intense media story regarding the event.

Trailer- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFzy3qlkIAM>

A discussion and light snacks after the film to answer the question- "Was this a hoax or not?"

Monday, January 5- 1:00- Stranger at the Gate

Trailer- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhoZtObnfNk>

"This US Marine who plans to bomb a U.S. mosque ends up converting to Islam, becoming president of the mosque, in the award-winning documentary STRANGER AT THE GATE. Film Review: A very modern account about how one man's descent into hatred was transformed into love by the very targets of his hate." A discussion and light snacks after the film. This is a very provoking short film.



## Explorers Club

Kris Baker

kristinabaker2014@gmail.com

September brought us to Belleplain State Forest Nature Center. The history of the NJ park system was reviewed along with the present challenges the park system is facing. We learned that the park has the greatest variety of habitats anywhere in NJ. Flora and fauna of the area were also explained. Several of us took a 1 mile nature walk where our docent pointed out various plants and trees. Special thank you goes to Lorraine Stoughton for her help in organizing.

The new Edelman Fossil Park and Museum at Rowan University which opened this past spring had 20 of us travel to view in October. Our docent Shark Chris explained the highlights of the museum and his passion for the subject was evident. The group wanted our Atlantic and Cape May members to know how special and informative this museum is and well worth the trip to visit.

### Upcoming

Date: Friday November 14

Time: 1 PM

Location: Princeton Antique Book Store, 2917 Atlantic Ave Atlantic City

Program: Robert Ruggolo will explain the challenges in running a family owned bookstore. He has an extensive collection on the history of Atlantic City and will explain.

Cost: Free

Special thank you goes to Joan Vicari for the suggestion to visit

Save the Date

Date: Friday December 12

Time: 1 PM

Location: Gateway Playhouse, 738 Bay Ave, Somers Point

Program: Tour of the Facility: will see the set and costumes for SCROOGE, explanation on the history of the Gateway, meet an actor/actress from the production who will share their experience. Also, a talk from the Executive Director, Renai Ellison

Date: Friday January 9

Time: 1 PM

Location: Shirat Hayam, 700 North Swarthmore Ave, Ventnor

Program: Docent tour of a traveling photography exhibit that preserves and shares the history of Jewish life in our region through stained-glass windows of 16 local synagogues. We will learn their meaning, symbolism and origin.

Cost: Donations are always appreciated

Further details will be sent out closer to the date. Special thank you goes to Shelley Cohen for help in organizing.

If you have a question or concern, do not hesitate to contact me. Also, if you would like updates on our outings and your name added to my group email list, I can be reached at 609-602-4467

## Bon Appetit

Kris Baker

[kristinabaker2014@gmail.com](mailto:kristinabaker2014@gmail.com)

Monday, November 17 1 p.m.

Place: Christine Gaudry

Program: we will be making a tarta de Santiago (Spanish almond cake), a special treat I had at the end of my three pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela. If all goes well, each of you will go home with a small version of this cake. We will decorate it with a powdered sugar stencil of the cross of St. James and you may want to bring an apron to protect your clothing!

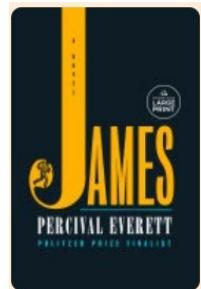
Our next scheduled Bon appétit meeting will take place on Monday, December 15 and I am sending a call out for volunteers! With Christmas around the corner, we may have to wait until January 19 to meet. Please let me know if you are willing to host a bon appétit event which are scheduled on the third Monday of each month. Thank you.

## Book Club

MaryLou Breidenstine

breidensti@aol.com

Thanks so much to Audrey for leading the discussion of West with Giraffes. It was great to see so many of you at our first meeting of the new season. Our next meeting will be on November 7 and the book is Huckleberry Finn. We will follow up in December with James by Percival Everett. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.



## Stockton Theater

Theresa Sartorio

theresasartorio@comcast.net

Volunteers are needed as ushers for the Stockton Children's Theater. The next two programs are:

1. Rella, Rose, and I: Elizabeth Ehrlich Roth's story of survival, Monday, Nov 17 at 10:30.
2. Then we have the Nutcracker by Atlantic City Ballet, Friday, December 12 at 10:30

The responsibilities are easy, we work together to make sure the students enjoy the show. After the show, we enjoy a lunch and each other's company.

So if you can volunteer, please call or email Theresa at 609 965-9521 or [theresasartorio@comast.net](mailto:theresasartorio@comast.net).



## Spanish Group

Jeannette Flax

jcflax@yahoo.com

The Spanish Conversation Group continues to meet every Monday that the Linwood Library is open. We start at 4:15 and chat until 6:00. Good news: there is nothing to prepare or present. Our goal is to maintain and improve our fluency in a relaxed atmosphere. Try us, you'll like us! Call me (609) 653-6177 if you need convincing!

## Ethnic Lunches

Lisa Goodwin

lisagoodwin999@yahoo.com



Ethnic Lunch Group- New & improved!! Come join us! Topic to be discussed at LUNCH: day of week and possibly changing the day as many places are closed on Monday.



Our first lunch will be at 1:00 on November 17th "JASMINE" 310 E White Horse Pike, Galloway, NJ 08205 (where old Goodfellows used to be) Please bring cash as always. If you have questions or want to be included in future updates, please email me at [lisagoodwin999@yahoo.com](mailto:lisagoodwin999@yahoo.com)