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THE FORUM

Atlantic County Branch
Volume 110, No. 8

April 2010

April Program Helen Riso 641-7085

Discover your wildlife refuge. Saturday April 17th, 11-2 p.m. **Forsythe Wildlife Refuge.** Great Creek Road off route 9 north in Oceanville. Bring cameras, binoculars and a brown bag lunch. Carolyn Bassett will provide beverage and dessert. Call her if you are coming (927-9095). A guided tour in our cars will follow lunch. Restrooms are available. Meet at the auditorium, Rain or Shine.

Heads up: Be sure your calendars are marked for our annual fundraiser on Saturday, May 15th. Lunch at Hibiscus in Somers Point, Silent Auction and a fabulous entertaining speaker. More details to come in the May Forum.

President's Report Emely Aiken 822-3601

In the March *Forum*, I mentioned that the Board had accepted the branch Policy Review Committee's suggested revision to allow unlimited guest attendance to all meetings and interest groups. However, in the February *Forum* I had also written that "results of any board revisions (at the Feb. 1 meeting) will be made available for membership consideration and response".

Since our AAUW branch is part of NJ AAUW which is part of National AAUW, I contacted the NJ AAUW president (Virginia Lyttle) and the NJ Membership VP (Barbara Williamson) to better understand how to proceed. Herewith are part of their answers:

Ginny Lyttle (President, AAUW NJ):

Invite people to come as guests for 2 or 3 meetings (3 at most) then ask them to join. Not joining means they don't care about AAUW as the dues are for local, state and National. Or they can get the programs for nothing by not joining, which isn't fair to those who have paid dues. Or if the branch allows one to come for a lot of meetings without paying, others may want to do the same thing. (Why pay for what you can get for free?) Study groups and book groups should count as meetings. I wouldn't vote until you know how people will respond.

Barbara Williamson (Membership VP NJ):

I will weigh in as membership VP, but I think Ginny would be the final word. Thanks for emailing to check in. I would recommend that guests can attend your study groups for 3 times, and then must join. (For instance, my branch study group VP has the group leaders check each year to make sure that this happens, and that the guests do join.)

Branch monthly programs should welcome guests. Your membership chair(s) should be signing them up as guests on a guest prospectus sheet for Shape the Future Program, and they should wear a tag that denotes a guest (such as different color). (Later)... call them and suggest membership. For instance, if they join in March they also get next year included.

Our neighbor, the Cape May branch, mails its annual dues notices to any guests who have not yet joined, followed by a phone call from their treasurer as a gentle reminder/invitation to ask if they wish to continue attending meetings the following year.

Now it will be up to our Atlantic County members to register their opinion/vote. This will be done by e-mail or written response. The procedure for this will be written in the May *Forum*, with voting results to be announced at the May 15th meeting/fundraiser.

President's Report Emely Aiken cont.

GREAT IDEA for the May 15th fundraiser from the fundraising committee:
Members who wish to donate to the silent auction may wish to "double dip" to your and our Branch's benefit. You can purchase a twenty-five dollar gift certificate to something of your choice (i.e. a restaurant, movie theater, garden center, book store, supermarket etc.) and give it to the designated committee member. This will then be part of the silent auction, tax deductible for you **and** a money maker for our branch.

Membership Judy Page 965-4380

Welcome to our two new members:

Deborah Gewirtz 12 Crestwood Ave., Linwood, NJ 08221
609-653-2840 storkdoctor@verizon.net
BS Health Records Administration Temple University

Carol L. Gaffney
4 Meadow Drive. Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
609-927-3731 gaffneyc@comcast.net
BS Nursing - Duke University

Treasurer's Report Betsy Reed 601-6449

March 1, 2010: Operations - Checking : \$3875.36	Savings : \$6,809.21
Scholarship—Checking: \$1797.94	CD: \$8244.32

Travel Group Carolyn Bassett 927-9095

On March 24th, Jackie Hall-Smith will present a program on Ethiopia at the home of Stella Hordes. Jackie has traveled extensively in Africa (as well as a lot of other places), and she has been to Ethiopia 3 times. The meeting is at 7:30 at 109 Lakeview Dr in EHT - let Stella know if you're coming (926-1971)

On May 19th, Claire Moyer will talk about a trip she took to Mexico in 2008, to see the wintering place of monarch butterflies, followed by a visit to a spa. We will meet at Claire's house at 7:30 p.m. The area of Mexico is Michoacan, about 200 miles from Mexico City.

Hope to see you at both meetings.

Cultural Interests Book Group Mary Lou Breidenstine 927-1779

The book group will meet again on Wednesday, April 21st, at Diane Gerlach's home to discuss "The Elegance of the Hedgehog." by Muriel Barbery. Audrey Owen is the reviewer. Please let Diane know if you are coming (926-6540).

Keep Saturday, April 24th at 10:30 a.m. open to meet at Gail Zona's home to discuss "Faust." Gail Vreeland, Emily Aiken, and I will lead the discussion. Please do not be discouraged by the first few scenes of "Faust." It gets much easier. It should provide the basis for an interesting discussion.

***Please send all Forum reports to Joan Leavy at sk8s2@comcast.net by the 15th of each month. ***

Educational Foundation Connie Smedley 398-6367 & Christine Ecker 926-5411

The 2009 Kathryn Carrigan Stockton Recipient was Carolina Overs. TCNJ has not provided a name.

The letters for this year's book scholarships went out today to all the Atlantic County High Schools. We'll prepare the sign-up sheet for the members to sign at the April luncheon at the Forsythe Wildlife Center. Hopefully by then we'll have heard from the schools.

STAR - Sisters Together Against Racism Gail Zona 641-1986

A modified Seder Meal on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 will be held at the home of Arlene Groch in Northfield, NJ. Sisters and friends are welcome to this special shared meal and the Haggadah focus will be on Hunger of Children. Attendees will bring various dishes.

A discussion of a feature article in the NY Times by Bob Herbert (Jan. 18, 2010) will be lead by Helen Walsh. It concerns positive and negative national approaches to many issues of the day.

Public Policy Audrey Moloney 926-5083

March is Women's History month and what a rich, proud history **AAUW** has. Since its first meeting in 1881 ((known then as *The Association of Collegiate Alumnae*) **AAUW** has been a catalyst for change. We are now 100,000 members strong with 1,000 branches nationwide! Consider this: In 1855 almost 1,300 AAUW members participated in a survey that eventually contradicted a prominent Boston physician's statement that put simply, "Higher education is bad for women's health." We have never looked back and never stopped advocating for equity for women in education **and** in the workplace. In 1913 AAUW members began pay equity efforts with a report on U.S. Civil Service job classifications and compensation. In 1955 AAUW supported the federal legislative proposals for pay equity in a year when women earned 65 cents to every dollar earned by men. Today, women earn on average, 77 cents on the dollar earned by men and on this past Thursday, the Senate held hearings on the **Paycheck Fairness Act** (S182), a much-needed update of the 46 year old *Equal pay Act*. ([read more on our website](#)) AAUW encourages us to urge our senators to act swiftly on this legislation.

*Tuesday, April 20th is **Equal Pay Day**.*



Here is our Program VP, Helen Riso, and our February branch meeting speaker, Judge Nelson Johnson, at the very well attended luncheon. Below, some members enjoying lunch.



April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			3/24 travel 3/31 STAR	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Branch Meeting
18	19	20 Equal Pay Day	21 Book Group	22	23	24 Book Group
25	26	27	28	29	30	

The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

AAUW Atlantic County Branch
c/o Jackie Sarner
523 Holly Brook Road
Galloway, NJ 08205

DATED MATERIAL