AAU CAPE MAY COUNTY BRANCH

Website http://capemay-nj.aauw.net

The purpose of this branch shall be to further AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

# SEPTEMBER 2019 Newsletter

## President's Corner

Welcome Back! Our AAUW branch starts up again after a summer hiatus. I hope everyone had a pleasant summer with family, friends and visitors who came to enjoy the warm weather and beautiful ocean and shore. We begin with book groups in September; please see the newsletter for dates and books (you can always find this information on our website also.) In October we will meet at Aleathea's for our early bird Welcome Back Dinner. Look for the link to the menu we will choose from so you can select your choices beforehand if you wish. I hope to see many members there as well as guests if you wish to bring and introduce a friend to our organization.

Save the Date! On November 6 we will be offering a luncheon and poetry reading with member Meredith Trede. We will gather at a local restaurant and enjoy poems Meredith will select to share with us. She is interested in hearing what people would like to hear her discuss and is offering her email so you can send her a message ahead of time. Her email address is <u>mtrede@meredithtrede.com</u>.

We are always looking for new program ideas so if anyone has a suggestion of an activity they would like to participate in please let us know.

Our STEM activities will continue this year after a very successful Tech Trek summer camp. We will get dates to you for the Workshops at Stockton University. Volunteers are always needed. I always look forward to each new year as friends and activities bind us together to help girls and women locally pursue their dreams though education and knowledge.

Karen Weis and Chris Rohrman



## WELCOME BACK DINNER

The Cape May County Branch **Welcome Back Dinner** will be at **Aleathea's** at the **Inn of Cape May**, 7 Ocean Street, in Cape May City on Wednesday, **October 9**<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 5pm. All meals must be ordered by **5:30pm** to qualify for the First Seating Menu of three courses (two choices from the appetizers, soups and salads plus your main entree). There are a number of vegetarian choices. Your three selections will be made at the restaurant on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

As this newsletter is published as a pdf picture, you must **type** this link in your web browser.

#### http://www.aleatheas.com/first%20seating.pdf

Kindly note filet mignon and sea scallops are not included in this First Seating price The cost is **\$35** per person which includes tax, tip and a non-alcoholic beverage. Please make your checks payable to **AAUW** and mail to:

Barbara Heinrichs 503 Whildam Ave North Cape May, NJ 08204

The deadline for reservations is **October 1**.

Hope to see you there. We always have a good time catching up after our summer break.

FROM YOUR TREASURER bheinrichs46@earthlink.net

I am pleased to announce our branch received a check for **\$1,345** as our share of the proceeds from the Hat Show in June.

The revised dues renewal process went very smoothly. 15 people renewed online with credit cards; the others by check.

Annual Picnic Held at Zoo

On June 18 we held our annual picnic at the Cape May County Park Zoo. Although we would have liked to see a larger turnout, the group of 15 members who attended had a good time catching up and chatting. We opened with a short business meeting led by Karen Weis and also welcomed new member, Theresa Basquez. The weather cooperated: some sun, warmth and light breezes. Our pavilion was perfectly placed with plenty of table space and close to parking and bathrooms. The food selections were varied and delicious. Thank you to all who were able to join us.

#### Fundraising Chairman Changeover

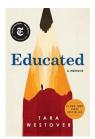
I'm taking over fundraising and scholarship donations for Pat Ford Roegner. For our scholarships, we hope to continue receiving donations from local banks and businesses. Pat also started our own scholarship pledges. She asked that members pledge \$100 for five years. Many have already been doing that since 2017. If you would like to start contributing or make a lump sum contribution toward our scholarships, please contact me or Barb Heinrichs.

Thanks, Chris Rohrman

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READERS NOTE – Books for the Daytime and Evening meetings for September through December are posted on our website under Activities - Book Groups

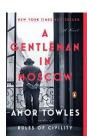
## Daytime Book Club



Educated by Tara Westover

We will meet on **Tuesday, September 17** at 12 noon at **Castaway Cafe**, 301 Bayshore Rd., Villas, NJ. Castaway Cafe is at the northern end of the Villas. We have a private room reserved for our group. We will order from the menu and receive separate checks. They have typical diner fare with a selection of salads, sandwiches and burgers. Dottie Pearson will lead our discussion of *Educated* by Tara Westover. This memoir should produce an animated discussion! I hope to see many of you there.

## Evening Book Group



A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

# **EVENT CALENDAR**

Tuesday, September 17 – Daytime Book Club

Wednesday, September 25 – Evening Book Group

Wednesday, October 9 – Welcome Back Dinner at Aleathea's

**Wednesday, November 6** – Poetry reading by Meredith Trede and luncheon

We will meet on **Wednesday, September 25** at 6 pm at Mulligan's Shore Bar & Grill, 310 West Hildreth Avenue, Wildwood.

We will discuss the book after ordering dinner.

Contact Mary Jane Slugg at 609 884 7041 or shoresluggs@aol.com to let her know you are coming.

# Girls Become Chemists, Aerospace Engineers at Tech Trek Summer Camp



**Galloway, N.J.** – Early Monday morning, Stockton's Unified Science Center smelled of cocoa butter and almond oil. The grooving bassline of Billie Eilish's "Bad Guy" coupled with giddy laughter could be heard echoing through the halls as a group of middle school girls created their own lip balms during the first day of the fifth annual Tech Trek summer camp.

"Science can be overwhelming, especially to this age group," said Ashley Brown, volunteer teacher at Tech Trek leading the cosmetic chemistry workshop. "We're trying to help them see the fun in science by utilizing stuff that they use every day, like lip balm."



Each summer, Stockton University and American Association of University Women (AAUW) partner to host Tech Trek, an award-winning, week-long residential camp for rising eighth grade girls focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) topics. This year, more than 60 girls from around the state participated. The goal of Tech Trek is to give girls the opportunity to immerse themselves in a world that empowers and encourages them to think about themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer specialists. Stockton faculty, staff, students, and alums participate by leading classes on STEM topics.

While Brown's class worked to craft the perfect lip balm recipe, other campers started building rain barrels out of recycled car wash containers, which they would install at the Cape May Zoo during a field trip on Friday.



The group also learned all about global and local water issues, even exploring the water crises occurring within their own hometowns and the methods they can take to improve the water supply.

Another group of campers delved into the world of aerospace engineering, building their own model hot air balloons out of tissue paper.

Madison Hardiman, a junior at the Peddie School in Mercer County, attended Tech Trek in 2016, and returned this summer to assist with the aerospace engineering workshops.



"This camp changed everything for me," she said. "It made me interested in possibly becoming an aerospace engineer or a fighter pilot for the Navy. When I was here, we visited the Philly airport. I got to 'land' a plane, and that was when I knew what I wanted to be."

Other participating campers engaged in a cybersecurity workshop that addressed the growing issues of cybercrime and identity theft, and even included some computer games. The computer lab was adorned with posters of women in technical fields that read, "Why not you, girl?"

Systems engineer Brian Stein and Saskia Schmidt, director of education at The Noyes Museum of Art turned STEM into STEAM, leading a workshop that injected art into the math and science theme. In the "Designs of Nature: The Fibonacci Sequence" workshop, the girls created an artwork based on the Fibonacci sequence, a math formula that describes spiral growth patterns in nature, such as leaves on a stem and seeds in pinecones and flowers.



Tech Trek also gives the girls the opportunity to meet and learn from women holding STEM positions. Christina Young, industrial engineer at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Mary Delemarre,

electronics engineer at the FAA, and Theresa Basquez, project manager at Veracity Engineering, gave insight into working in STEM. All were enthusiastic about their career choices, and attributed their interest in STEM to their early affinities for problem-solving and puzzle-solving. They encouraged campers to pursue their interests, especially if they are equally as passionate.

This year, the camp extended to the new Stockton Atlantic City campus, and campers got the opportunity to do science on the beach. They also took a trip to the Cape May Zoo where they installed rain barrels they made during the week.

"Girls who attend this camp tell us every year that they are inspired and motivated to continue pursuing their passion for science, technology, engineering and math," said Claudine Keenan, camp coordinator and Stockton School of Education dean. "The role models and peers they meet sustain their commitment during inevitable experiences of subtle discouragement or implicit bias. They make lifelong friends and network with other women who also continue to mentor them."

For more information, visit the Tech Trek webpage.

See more Tech Trek photos on Stockton's Flickr.

Reported by Kat H. Wentzell.

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#### Contact:

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#### Tributes

Gifts to our Tribute Scholarship Fund are a thoughtful way to recognize an anniversary or remember a friend, member or relative while providing support to our scholarship recipients.

An acknowledgement is sent to you and to the individual recognized. Your name will be made known, but not the amount of the gift.

Please send your gift to Barbara Heinrichs, 503 Whildam Ave., North Cape May, NJ 08204.

Acknowledgements: Judy Gatt Evelyn Lovitz Movie Group Loretta Scheetz

## http://capemay-nj.aauw.net KEEP OUR WEB ADDRESS HANDY

Events, meetings, book discussion dates, and more! You can always find up-to-date information here. Book lists and dates for both groups are posted.

A calendar of events is handy.

A complete membership list with contact information is available.

To access the information for <u>Members Only</u> call: Mary Jane Slugg 884-7041 or Barbara Heinrichs 889-1647 and we will give you the password! President Karen Weis

Vice President Chris Rohrman

Secretary Randi Ziring

Treasurer Barbara Heinrichs

Book Groups Connie Blocher Mary Jane Slugg

Fund Raising Chris Rohrman

Historian BJ Wagner-Marlowe

Membership Mary Jane Slugg

Newsletter Barbara Heinrichs

Programs Cat Cronin

Public Policy Suzanne Pelkaus

Public Relations Randi Ziring

Scholarship Sandy Sieber

STEM Coordinator Dottie Pearson