



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 2020 Newsletter

President's Corner

Hello Members of Cape May County Branch! September has arrived with cooler weather on the way. COVID-19 and hot weather have not been a wonderful mix this summer--next year will be better. So -- Welcome Back !!

The continuing health concerns will limit any group face to face activities and meetings this fall. So I am sorry to say that our Welcome Back dinner will not take place as well as any in-person book groups. I am sure that the library closure has slowed many members down with the cancellation of classes, and the opportunity to browse the new book shelf among other services the County Library offers. So -- the Book Group champions Mary Jane Slugg and Connie Blocher have come up with an online proposal. Welcome to the Cape May County AAUW Book Worms blog. The September and October books have been selected. All information is in the newsletter so please be sure to check out The Book Nook column and save the web address you will use to join the blog. Happy Reading!

Thanks to all the members and dual members who joined again for the forthcoming year. And thanks to Barbara Heinrichs for managing the renewal process via socially distancing.

Note: just for fun click on the link to see how quickly Merriam-Webster added new terms to the dictionary. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/new-words-in-the-dictionary>.

Karen Weis

THE BOOK NOOK

September is here and we are still experiencing pandemic conditions which hamper our book group meetings. Thank you to all who responded to the blast asking for ideas. Connie Blocher, Karen Weis, Barbara Heinrichs, and I have had several discussions about the pros and cons of each idea and none are off the table for the future.

To start us off for September I have, with a lot of help from Kyle at the Cape May County Library, created a blog called Cape May County AAUW Book Worms. To access the blog type in

AAUWbookworms.blogspot.com

You will find the title and author of the book for the month with some background information and things to think about as you read.

Our book for September is *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut. This book is an American classic and one of the world's greatest anti-war books according to *The New York Times*. The book is readily available through the Cape May Library and other online services.

For more information and a place to enter your comments, go to

AAUWbookworms.blogspot.com

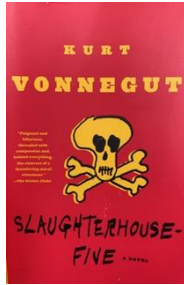
At the end of the month Connie and I will compile a recap of your responses.

Our October book will be *The Murmur of Bees* by Sofia Segovia. More information will appear

in The Book Nook and on the blog at the beginning of the month.

This is a whole new thing for me so I hope it works as well on our computers as it does in my mind!

Mary Jane Slugg, shoresluggs@aol.com



"So it goes"

RECAP OF OUR PAST FISCAL YEAR

Karen Weis

Term: 2019-2020

President: Karen Weis

Members: 49

Officers:

Vice-President: Chris Rohrman

Secretary: Randi Ziring

Treasurer: Barbara Heinrichs

Committees:

Book Groups: Connie Blocher & Mary Jane Slugg

Fundraising: Pat Ford-Roegner(Sep-Oct);

Chris Rohrman(remainder of year)

Membership: Mary Jane Slugg

Newsletter: Barbara Heinrichs

Programs: Cat Cronin

Public Policy: Suzanne Pelkaus

Public Relations: Randi Ziring

Scholarship: Sandy Sieber

STEM Coordinator: Theresa Basquez

IN MEMORIAM: Barbara MacGregor passed away in January 27, 2020. She was a long time member of the Cape May County AAUW where she attended the daytime book group and never missed a group community outing to historical places.

PROJECTS:

- **STEM – TECH TREK SUMMER CAMP:** Cape May County Branch and Atlantic County Branch joined resources with the state AAUW and other AAUW branches to provide a STEM camp July 21-27 2019. Professional Women's Night was held on July 17, 2019. STEM TECH TREK is designed to generate interest of girls finishing 7th grade in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The camp takes place for one week on the campus of Stockton University. Female STEM professionals meet with campers in small groups for discussion and questions. Volunteers from all branches assist with the interviews, camp setup, and serve as dorm mothers and fund raisers. Snacks and juices for campers were solicited by volunteers from local businesses for TECH TREK 2019.
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- Members interviewed two applicants from Cape May County for TECH TREK 2020. Due to the Coronavirus the STEM 2020 summer camp was postponed until summer 2021.
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- **STEM – TWEENTECH:** The one-day program for girls in grades 6, 7, & 8, was held at Stockton University on January 3, 2020.
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- **STEM – TEENTECH:** Due to the Coronavirus the full day of workshops for high school students was cancelled.
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- **TRIBUTE SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** The Marion MacEwan 2nd Chance Scholarship fund granted three scholarships of \$1500 to students at Atlantic Cape Community College.

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- **TECH TREK 2020** was scheduled July 26-August 1, 2020 at Stockton University. However, due to the Coronavirus the camp has been rescheduled for 2021
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- **PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NIGHT AT TECH TREK** was held at Stockton University on July 25, 2019. The goal is to inspire rising 8th grade girls to pursue education and careers in STEM fields. Professional Women's Night begins with a buffet dinner followed by 3 sessions of speed networking. There are 60 campers from throughout New Jersey who through a competitive process attend the week-long overnight camp. Each table has 5 girls, a moderator and 3 Professional STEM Women. After 30 minutes or so the Professional Women mentors move to a different table while the girls and moderator stay at the same table. This happens for 3 sessions.

EVENTS:

- Several Branch members went on a NJ AAUW sponsored trip to Seneca Falls NY on September 19, 2019. They visited the site of the Seneca Falls Convention, the first women's rights convention. The trip included a visit to the Harriett Tubman museum in Auburn NY.
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- The Welcome Back Dinner was on October 9, 2019 at Aleathea's at the Inn at Cape May.
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- On November 6, 2019 the Branch hosted a Poet-Luncheon with Meredith Trede. Meredith is a member and published poet.
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- Members participated in the 2019 Women of Wonder League Luncheon at the Flanders Hotel on November 14, 2019, to raise money in support of at-risk high school students attending

Atlantic Cape Community College. Three women were honored, including Stormy Freese who has volunteered at Professional Women's Night during the TECH TREK summer camp. Stormy is a microbiologist at the Cape May County Mosquito Control.

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- Holiday Raffle Baskets were prepared to raise money for the Marion MacEwan Second Chance Scholarship
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- A Holiday Luncheon with spouses and friends was held at the Lobster House on December 15, 2019. A 50/50 raffle and a raffle of the holiday baskets were held, and the Scholarship fund was significantly increased.
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- Members took advantage of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts programs during the winter months. The Lunch and Learn programs included Big Bands & Their Marvelous Singers (January) and Prohibition & Cape May County (February).
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- And then the Coronavirus struck and the state went into lockdown in March 2020. Book Club meetings, STEM workshop for high school girls, the Women's Resource Luncheon Fundraiser, etc, were all cancelled.

But members have kept in touch with each other including some outdoor walks and outdoor dining. However, we are all being careful with social distancing, and our health. Our year ended (end of June) and the start up in September is in question. Thanks to all members for your support during this difficult period.

PUBLIC POLICY

www.aauw.org

From AAUW's home page you can select **Explore the Issues** or **Get Empowered** which includes issues like Work Smart and Start Smart.

By selecting the **Take Action** page, you can sign up to receive timely action alerts by email. You may also receive these alerts on your cell phone by texting AAUW to 21333 for the Two Minute Activist tool. This is a fast and easy way to contact your legislators.

You can also subscribe to AAUW's newsletter by email.

Members should use these web pages to keep abreast of what AAUW is advocating on a state and national level.

FROM YOUR TREASURER
bheinrichs46@earthlink.net

As of today, we have 43 members including 11 dual from Atlantic County.

\$51 was donated with dues payment to our scholarship fund.

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

From Jim Tartala in honor of his wife, June, who was a long time active member of our Cape May County branch

<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 Members Only call: Mary Jane Slugg (609) 884-7041 or Barbara Heinrichs (609) 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

Membership
Mary Jane Slugg

Newsletter
Barbara Heinrichs

Programs
Cat Cronin

Public Policy
Suzanne Pelkaus

Public Relations
Randi Ziring

Scholarship
Sandy Sieber

STEM Coordinator
Theresa Basquez