



## 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.

## FEBRUARY 2021 Newsletter

## BOOK NOOK

### President's Corner

It's February and Russ and I are in Florida. Not being a normal year, we're able to keep in touch with family and friends via Zoom meetings and Portal. I hope you joined us for our first Zoom book club. I thought it was pretty successful!

I even had a Zoom meeting with other N.J. AAUW Branch presidents. For me that was great, since I'm not much for driving long distances. At the branch meeting, we discussed possible future changes being discussed at the National level. Next meeting we will exchange ideas for fundraising during a pandemic.

Glory says, **Happy Valentine's Day!**



Chris Rohrman

Greetings Fellow Readers!

My topic this month is: why do we read? I can think of many answers - information, education, entertainment, travel to foreign shores, find a new recipe, visit the past (or the future), enter the lives of famous people, and the list goes on.

I have been using my Kindle almost exclusively during the Pandemic. I belong to BookBub and get a selection of inexpensive books daily. I add whatever looks interesting to my device. As I was perusing my library to find my next book I found page after page of titles marked "read". As I looked through the titles I realized that I remembered nothing about most of the books. At that point it dawned on me that most of my reading this past year was pure escape!

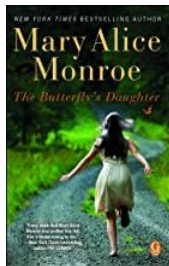
I'm a creature of habit. Each morning I get up at 7:30 and come to the table where Chuck serves me my oatmeal with blueberries, nuts, and brown sugar. He fixes my coffee and brings in the newspapers. We subscribe to *The Press of Atlantic City* and *The Inquirer*. As I eat my cereal I read through both papers. During the past year the news was anxiety-producing at best. Even the comics couldn't relieve my stress!

You guessed it! I opened my Kindle and found my next book to escape the turmoil and anxiety of the current events. I went to foreign countries and was involved in stalkings, murders, and horrendous crimes. I lived in castles and slums. I laughed and cried. But I knew it was all fiction and I could escape from the reality of the news for a few hours.

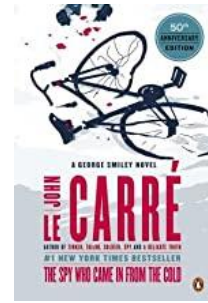
No matter why you read, remember that reading is a gift that allows us to learn, dream, and escape to any place and any time when we are overwhelmed by the present. Amen!

Now for the book groups news. Our first ZOOM meeting on Jan. 19 was a great success. We had 9 members join to discuss *A Single Thread* led by Connie. From 1-1:30 we had a chance to meet our newest member, Jean Mason, and to catch up with old friends. Connie started the discussion promptly at 1:30 and, although we agreed that this was not Tracy Chevalier's best book, there were plenty of issues that caught our attention. Our meeting ended about 2:45.

For February we plan to have two ZOOM discussions, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Please join the ZOOM slot that best works with your schedule or to talk about the book that appeals to you the most.



On Tuesday, Feb. 16, we will begin our meeting at 1:00 and start the discussion at 1:30. We will talk about *The Butterfly's Daughter* by Mary Alice Monroe. Each chapter begins with a description of part of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly. Here in Cape May we are a major stop on the Monarch's journey to overwinter in the mountains of central Mexico. Luz was raised by her grandmother who is now elderly and wants to travel back to her village in Mexico near the Monarch's wintering grounds. She tried to teach her granddaughter about their culture but Luz wasn't interested. The resulting story is one of love and family.



On Wednesday, Feb. 24, we will host an evening ZOOM beginning at 6:30. We will reserve the first half hour for chatting and begin the discussion promptly at 7:00. Our book is *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, a 1963 Cold War spy novel by British author John le Carré. The author passed away in December of 2020 at age 89. This book is much more than a "spy story" and has become a classic.

We hope you will join one or both of our ZOOM discussions this month. You will all receive an invitation to each meeting.

Keep on reading!



Mary Jane Slugg

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

**Editor's note:** The WordPress program on our branch website was recently upgraded. The calendar feature on the home page has been eliminated. Check **Activities – Book Groups** for book lists and dates of the Zoom discussion meetings.

## TECH TREK 2021

Tech Trek New Jersey will be 100% virtual this year. A virtual Meet & Greet for the campers selected in 2020 will be held on May 15, 2021 to prepare them for participating in camp July 18 – 24, 2021.

The AAUW national office has not yet released 2021 MOAs to any of the states who offer camps every year. Once we have that agreement, we will follow up with additional details to the selected campers' families and to our volunteers.

Given these circumstances, we will not select a 2021 cohort of campers. To offset the experience our 2020 cohort will have missed for two summers of pandemic, we plan to extend a longer Alumni Camp experience to them in 2022.

## PUBLIC POLICY

[www.aauw.org](http://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.

## *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:

Marge Corson

Barbara Heinrichs

<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 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!

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